



Open Spaces and City Gardens

Date: TUESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2022
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members: Oliver Sells QC (Chairman)
Caroline Haines (Deputy Chairman)
Graeme Doshi-Smith
Alderman Ian Luder
Wendy Mead
Deputy Barbara Newman
Deputy John Tomlinson
Andrew McMurtrie
Anne Fairweather (Ex-Officio Member)
Benjamin Murphy (Ex-Officio Member)

Enquiries: Richard Holt
Richard.Holt@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Accessing the virtual public meeting

Members of the public can observe this virtual public meeting via YouTube at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/YsEoe4CEVbA>

A recording of the public meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting for up to one municipal year. Please note: online meeting recordings do not constitute the formal minutes of the meeting; minutes are written and are available on the City of London Corporation's website. Recordings may be edited, at the discretion of the proper officer, to remove any inappropriate material.

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

3. **MINUTES**

To agree the public note of inquorate meeting and non-public summary for the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meeting on the 7th of December 2021.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 10)

Open Spaces

4. **QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY**

Report of the Executive Director Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 11 - 16)

5. **OPEN SPACES COVERAGE 2022**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 17 - 18)

City Gardens

6. **CITY GARDENS UPDATE**

Report of the Executive Director Environment.

For Information
(Pages 19 - 22)

7. **BUNHILL FIELDS COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT**

Report of the Executive Director Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 23 - 34)

8. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED**

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
MOTION: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

For Decision

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
To agree the non-public note of inquorate meeting for the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meeting on the 7th of December 2021.

For Decision
(Pages 35 - 36)

12. **FINSBURY CIRCUS GARDENS REINSTATEMENT**
Joint report of the Executive Director Environment and the City Surveyor.

For Decision
(Pages 37 - 38)

13. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

Confidential

15. **CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS COMMITTEE**
Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information

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OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS Tuesday, 7 December 2021

Public note of the inquorate meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens
Committee held on Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Oliver Sells QC (Chairman)
Caroline Haines (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Barbara Newman
Andrew McMurtrie

Observers:

Catherine Bickmore
Jeremy Simons

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristina Drake	- Town Clerk's Department
Mark Jarvis	- Head of Finance Citizen Services, Chamberlains
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens, Environment Department
Gerry Kiefer	- Open Spaces Business Manager, Environment Department
Jake Tibbetts	- City Gardens Manager, Environment Department
Beth West	- Director of Open Spaces, Environment Department

The Town Clerk informed Members that a Quorum had not been established within five minutes of the scheduled start of the Committee and as result, in accordance with Standing Order 36 (2), the formal meeting was dissolved. Following this Members present agreed to informally consider the items on the agenda.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Wendy Mead, Benjamin Murphy, Anne Fairweather, Deputy John Tomlinson, Graeme Doshi-Smith and Alderman Luder.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public note of the inquorate meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee held on the 12th of October 2021.

RESOVLED- That the public note of the inquorate meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee held on the 12th of October 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **DEPARTMENTAL AND SERVICE COMMITTEE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022/23**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Departmental and Service Committee Budget Estimates 2022/23.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. The Directorate, Bunhill Fields and City Gardens proposed revenue budget for 2022/23 be approved for submission to the Finance Committee; and
- II. The City Gardens and Bunhill Fields capital and supplementary revenue budgets for 2022/23 be approved for submission to the Finance Committee; and
- III. The Chamberlain, in consultation with the Executive Director Environment, was authorised to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, the Target Operating Model, and changes to the Cyclical Works Programme; and
- IV. Agreed that minor amendments for 2021/22 and 2022/23 from changes to recharges arising during budget setting to be delegated to the Chamberlain; and
- V. It was noted the provisional 2022/23 revenue budget for the services overseen by the other Open Space Service Committees.

5. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2022/23**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Open Spaces Business Plan for 2022/23.

A local observer appointed to the Committee questioned if the formation of the new Environment would result in a reduced cost of administration to the individual sites. The Chamberlain responded that this a factor, however a full response to this would need to be provided after the meeting. The Deputy Chairman commented that there were a number of changes at the City of London Corporation which would impact the Department that would only be fully apparent going forward. Reacting to a further comment from a local observer the Deputy Chairman commented that these changes would not limit the voice of open spaces with the City of London Corporation. The Chairman added that he perceived a larger role for open spaces within the City of London Corporation, noting that their importance had been highlighted during the COVID19 pandemic.

The Deputy Chairman highlighted to the Committee the role of education within the Environment Department and explained that, as a component of this, the apprenticeship programme would be reassessed.

RESOLVED- That the high-level Business Plan for Open Spaces, Environment Department for 2022/23 be approved.

6. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 - SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE: APRIL TO SEPT 2021**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Open Spaces Business Plan 2021/22 Six-month performance update April to September 2021.

The Committee commended Officers for the awards, as specified in the report which the open spaces had received.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

7. **OPEN SPACES COVERAGE 2021**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk on the Open Spaces Media Coverage for 2021 September to November 2021.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

8. **2022/23 EVENTS FEES AND CHARGES - CITY GARDENS**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the 2022/23 Events Fees and Charges City Gardens. The Executive Director Environment explained that the comments received from the Committee previously had been incorporated appropriately and that the charges for charity and community events had been brought in line with benchmarking.

In reference to St Dunstan in the East the Committee discussed the need to tackle unlicensed commercial photographers using City Gardens sites which were harder to identify with those using social media for commercial purposes. In response to this the Executive Director Environment explained that this was an increasing challenge across all of the City of London Corporation managed open spaces and therefore the Department would be looking to find effective solutions to tackle this.

RESOLVED- The proposed 2022/23 fees and charges be approved.

9. **POSTMAN'S PARK MEMORIALS PROPOSAL**

The Committee considered of the Executive Director Environment on the Postman's Park Memorials Proposals.

The Committee commended a suggestion for adding memorials to Postman's Park noting the importance of high-quality carving for the memorial and a suitable selection criteria for choosing those names to be added. Members agreed that it was essential to have further clarity on the detail of the proposals before any public announcement was made.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. The principle of adding memorials to Postman's Park, as outlined in the proposals, be approved; and
- II. It was agreed that officers liaise with relevant internal and external stakeholders to progress this proposal.

10. **CITY GARDENS UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the on the City Gardens update. The Executive Director Environment highlighted the climate resilient planting scheme in beds along the river in front of the Boys' School and the significant increase in the visits to the City Gardens in the period specified. In addition, the Executive Director Environment noted the successful Christmas Tree lighting event which had been held on the 6th of December.

The Chairman commended Officers for their work in the City Gardens and highlighted to Members the Barbican Podium Phase Two project which was now entering an exciting position. A Member commented that the central issue for the Barbican Podium site was access and noted that the benches present offered an unwanted focus for antisocial behaviour.

A Member of the Committee asked Officers for an update on the Finsbury Circus Reinstatement Project planning permission. The Executive Director Environment informed the Committee that, so far, there had only been two formal planning objections and that officers were working closely with Historic England to overcome any concerns it may have with regard to the heritage landscape. It was anticipated that this application will not require the approval of the full Planning & Transportation Committee.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

11. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

Responding to a query from a Member the Executive Director Environment explained that responsibility for providing lights for the trees specified was held by the former Department for the Built Environment's lighting team and confirmed that the budget for festive lighting had been reduced. The Member responded that this was a pity as other local authorities seem able to fund the lighting of trees in their areas. Answering a Member's query the Executive Director Environment confirmed that the City Gardens Team used to maintain the planters at Mansion House, however these are no longer maintained due to budgetary reductions and a change in policy by the Mansion House Management Team.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED**

There were no urgent items considered in the public session.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the

grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The Committee considered the non-public note of the inquorate meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee held on the 12th of October 2021.

RESOVLED- That the non-public note of the inquorate meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee held on the 12th of October 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

15. DEBT ARREARS – INVOICED INCOME FOR PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director Environment on the Debt Arrears for invoiced income for period ending 30th September 2021.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

16. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee received no questions in the non-public session.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There was no urgent business considered in the non-public session.

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Richard Holt
Richard.Holt@cityoflondon.gov.uk / 020 7332 3113**

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Committee	Dated:
Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee	15 February 2022
Subject: Queen's Green Canopy	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 3, 4, 10, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Y
If so, how much?	£40,000
What is the source of Funding?	Local risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Pending
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment	For Decision
Report author: Beth West, Environment Department	

Summary

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) team have approached the City of London Corporation (CoLC) to become involved in QGC activities and Ashted Common, Burnham Beeches and Epping Forest have been nominated as part of the 70-strong ancient woodlands initiative, with successful woodland nominations being announced by the QGC Board in February 2022. This report recommends how the CoLC could be involved in QGC activities across the Square Mile and the Open Spaces and potentially other green asset holders such as the Housing Estates and Freemans School, engaging the Lord Mayor, school groups and wider communities.

It is proposed that the CoLC take an active role in the QGC activities over the course of the next 14 months and align activities in numerous locations around supporting the QGC campaign.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Agree the planning of an extensive tree-planting campaign to support the QGC with activities across the City Corporation estate, drawing together many previously planned activities into the QGC campaign and adding new activities where appropriate and cost effective
- Agree the following, already identified, initiatives:
 - Mayoral tree planting in Whittington Gardens at a ceremony to be held in March at a date and time to be agreed

- The planting of a Memorial Tree at Giffords Wood in memory of former Lord Mayor Sir Roger Gifford.
- Dedicate the Ancient Black Mulberry tree at Keats House as one of the 70 dedicated ancient trees
- Dedicate the three ancient woodlands (Ashted Common, Burnham Beeches and Epping Forest) that have been nominated, if selected
- Agree that officers engage with the QGC team to establish the City of London as a Champion City in the campaign
- Approve the budget for a level D project support officer for 14 months to manage the QGC activities

Main Report

Background

1. Several City Corporation City Gardens and Open Spaces have previously been utilized to provide planting opportunities to celebrate previous Royal Jubilees. At Epping Forest a number of initiatives from a 79-strong Black Poplar Avenue was planted on Woodford Green in 1886 (and replaced in 1966) to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887 to the planting of a Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Grove in 1953.
2. The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which celebrates the 70 years of the Queen's reign. QGC invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".
3. Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season to the end of March 2022. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.
4. With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.
5. As well as inviting the planting of new trees, the QGC will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.¹

¹ <https://queensgreencanopy.org>

Current Position

6. The QGC team have requested that the Lord Mayor plant a tree in the Square Mile before the end of March 2022. They have separately asked if the Ancient Black Mulberry tree in Keats House can be dedicated as one of the 70 ancient trees. The QGC tree are keen for the CoLC to be actively involved in the campaign.
7. Ashtead Common, Burnham Beeches and Epping Forest have been nominated as part of the 70-strong Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative, with successful woodland nominations being announced by the QGC Board later this month.

Proposed Short-term Plans

8. Over the next 2 months, there are several planned initiatives that could be aligned to the QGC programme. We propose that whenever possible with timing and budget, these activities should be included as part of the CoLC's overall contribution to the QGC.
9. These activities are:
 - Replacing a tree in Whittington Gardens on Upper Thames Street
 - Planting three new trees in Giffords Wood in Epping Forest, dedicated to the late Lord Mayor, Sir Roger Gifford. This planting was scheduled for April/May, but we propose to bring this forward to March 2022. Lady Clare is happy to accommodate this change
10. These activities have previously identified budgets and therefore no additional funding is required for these activities. Should other activities be identified in the short term that could be included in the QGC programme without additional budget request, we will include them in the QGC programme and notify the committee of our intent.

Proposed Additional Plans

11. There are several initiatives currently under consideration that could be included within the CoLC's QGC approach. We would propose to identify all relevant activities and seek to include them in our overarching QGC narrative and campaign. Some proposed additional plans include:
 - Tree planting activities within the City Gardens and where possible, churchyards within the Square Mile. We would propose to delay all tree planting activities other than at Whittington Gardens (see above) until the October 2022-March 2023 period so that we can assess and prioritise any

- requests to plant trees within the Square Mile, and then allocate planting activities as 'awarded'. It is estimated that this will include approximately 10 trees based on current space availability. Additional budget may be required to purchase appropriate trees and for any ceremony, although we would request that those wishing to plant trees cover the costs of any ceremony.
- Tree planting activities within the Open Spaces outside the Square Mile. Looking at the longer 10-year plan, we would assess any near-term tree planting plans and determine if these can be undertaken during the October 2022-March 2023 period. This could include.
 - Two Jubilee copse plantings in LBWF and EFDC in the form of a hectare copse on Wanstead flats and an orchard of 70 apple trees on Coopersale Common
 - Individual tree planting including gapping up Whipps Cross, Planting a Tree at Chingford Golf course and then offering a tree planting in each local authority ward
 - Identify within our conservation plans, particularly with regard to ancient trees, where any activities can be adapted to be included in the QGC plans.
 - A new 50-tree plantation at Epping Forest planted by Commonwealth Commissioners during the Commonwealth Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in London. Work with our apprenticeship programmes, as well as those of our local authority partners, to identify where we can celebrate or add to existing skills programmes on green skills.
 - Engage with the education teams to determine where school children can be more involved in these activities; for example, it is already planned for primary school children to go to Epping Forest as part of the Giffords Woods tree planting programme.
12. The cost of these types of activities will be developed alongside the programme of work. Wherever possible, we will use previously identified budget to deliver these activities. If no specific funding can be identified or reallocated, Members will be asked to approve the programme of work and any additional costs in delivering it. It is anticipated that we will seek approval for the programme at the May committee meeting.
13. In order to ensure the appropriate prominence of these activities within the QGC, we propose that a specific QGC project support officer is retained for 14 months to facilitate the deliver of these works and coordinate with the QGC and communications team.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic Implications

These initiatives will allow the CoLC to be able to demonstrate our relevance in national campaigns, reinforcing our iconic role in the national consciousness.

Reputational Implications

The Town Clerk's Communications Team will develop a communications plan to provide positive, easily understandable messaging to key audiences for this campaign. This will include the media, elected Members, staff, residents, workers, the general public and other key stakeholders.

Financial Implications

To be fully successful in delivering a holistic campaign, it is proposed that a project support officer work in this programme full time for a period of 14 months. Therefore, Members are asked to approve funding for the salary and costs for this individual.

Additional budget may be required if activities that would have been delivered in future years are brought forward and/or for any ceremonies. Any request for additional funding will be made in line with the appropriate governance, and sought prior to committing to the activity as discussed above.

Additional communications resource may also be required, but this would be identified in the subsequent paper if necessary.

Legal Implications

Any legal implications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Comptroller & City Solicitor.

Risk Implications

Risk will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and any additional risks identified will be reported to the relevant committees by exception.

Equality Implications

There should be no equality implications for these activities; however, we can make efforts to ensure that women and under-represented groups are engaged in the apprenticeship and education programmes.

Climate Implications

These activities will enhance and shine a spotlight on the CoLC's Climate Action Strategy in a positive way.

Conclusion

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Queen's Green Canopy team have approached the City of London Corporation to become involved in QGC activities. It is proposed that the CoLC take an active role in the QGC activities over the course of the next 14 months and align activities in numerous locations around supporting the QGC campaign, through the creation and promotion of QGC activities across the Square Mile and the Open Spaces, engaging the Lord Mayor, school groups and wider communities.

Contact

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Open Spaces in the Media

Summary of coverage December – February 2022

150 years of Hampstead Heath

The City Corporation was referenced in a story in the [Financial Times](#) on the joys of Hampstead Heath, marking the 150th anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act (£).

Epping and Wanstead fly-tippers fined £4,000 amid rise in illegal dumping

[Epping Forest Guardian](#), [MyLondon](#) and [World News](#) reported that four people have been fined a total of £4,000 for fly-tipping in Epping Forest. Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, Graeme Doshi-Smith, was quoted.

New Heath Superintendent welcomed

[Camden New Journal](#) (viewable internally only) reported on the appointment of Stefania Horne as the new Hampstead Heath Superintendent.

Christmas Fayre comes to the Heath

[Ham&High](#) reported on Hampstead Heath hosting its first Christmas Fayre, starting tomorrow. Chair of the Hampstead Heath management committee Anne Fairweather was quoted.

The continued importance of Epping Forest

[Epping Forest Guardian](#) ran a column from the Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, Graeme Doshi-Smith, who says that the site has “so much to offer walkers and sports people.”

Postman’s Park may feature NHS memorial

Chairman of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee Oliver Sells QC was quoted in [Sky News](#) (viewable internally), [City Matters](#) and [Horticulture Week](#) [£] on plans for an NHS memorial in Postman’s Park being agreed in principle by the City Corporation. The story also appeared on [BBC London News](#) (viewable internally) and the [Ian Visits](#) blog.

Spotlight on Epping Forest

Epping Forest provided the focus for a feature in [The Guardian](#), which interviewed the City Corporation’s Head of Conservation, Jeremy Dagley. Eighteen other UK and international media outlets included related coverage.

Chair of Hampstead Heath Committee to step down [Ham & High](#) reported on the Hampstead Heath Committee Chair, Anne Fairweather, standing down at the next City of London Corporation elections. The Chair is quoted.

Serious collision kills horses in Epping Forest

[Horse & Hound](#) reported on a collision in which two horses suffered fatal injuries near Epping Forest. The City of London Corporation was referenced.

Epping Forest parking charges set to be introduced

The [Epping Forest Guardian](#), [London News Time](#), [BBC Essex](#) (link not available), [My London](#) and [This is Local London](#) reported on the City Corporation’s decision to introduce

payments at parking lots in Epping Forest. Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, Graeme Doshi-Smith was quoted.

Increased burial and cremation fees

The [Newham Recorder](#) reported that the City Corporation has decided to increase burial and cremation fees by up to £105. The rise covers all cremations, burials and new graves at the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium in Manor Park. Further coverage in [Ilford Recorder](#), [East London Advertiser](#), and [City Matters](#). [Barking & Dagenham Post](#) ran a story on increasing cremation and burial fees at the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium and quoted from a report by Superintendent and Registrar, Gary Burks. [viewable internally]

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park get *After Life* benches

[Londonist](#) reported on three benches being installed at locations, including Hampstead Heath, to encourage people to seek help if they are struggling with poor mental health. The idea was inspired by the highly successful comedy-drama, *After Life*, written by and starring Ricky Gervais. Also reported by [Ham & High](#).

Green light for Sir Roger Gifford memorial plans

The [Evening Standard](#) reports in the Londoner's Diary section that late Lord Mayor of London Sir Roger Gifford's widow, Lady Clare, has put in an application for a memorial in Epping Forest to her husband.

Committee gives go ahead for natural play area at park

The [Wanstead Village Directory](#) runs an article on plans taken a step forward for a new natural play area in Wanstead Park

Wanstead Park amongst best birdwatching spots

[Countryfile Magazine](#) runs article looking at the best birdwatching spots and features Wanstead Park as one of its key locations.

Coulsdon's oasis 'saving the planet'

[Inside Croydon](#) writes a story about the importance of Fathing Downs and Coulsdon Common

The history of Wanstead Flats

The City Corporation is referenced in a story in [Wanstead Village Directory](#) on the history of Wanstead Flats

Committee:	Date:
Open Spaces & City Gardens	15 February 2022
Subject: City Gardens Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment	For Information
Report author: Jake Tibbetts, City Gardens Manager	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee on management and operational activities across the City Gardens section since December 2021.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Current position

Finance

1. As detailed in the previous City Gardens update, the service commenced the 2021/22 financial year with £158k deficit of, as yet; unidentified savings, which equates to 9% of the total budget. The team is working to reduce this figure by generating additional income, minimising expenditure and holding temporary vacant posts. The team continue to explore other options to fully balance the bottom line.

Personnel

2. City Gardens are currently advertising for the Horticultural Project Manager. The TOM is now in the consultation phase, preparations are being made to recruit to all of the vacant posts and to those that are currently filled with fixed term contracts.

Procurement

3. The tree procurement contract has now been awarded to a new supplier; Van den Berk nurseries who will supply trees for City Gardens for the next five years.

Operational Activities

4. **Queens Green Canopy:** As part of the department's events supporting the Queens Green Canopy, The Lord Mayor will be planting a tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The date and location will be circulated to Members once finalised. Other planting schemes in the City will be carried out in support of this scheme. The plans for how the Natural Environment Division will celebrate the Jubilee is the subject of another paper that will be presented to committee.
5. **Biodiversity Action Plan:** The Biodiversity Action plan will be ready for circulation imminently; committee Members will be sent a copy as soon as it is complete.
6. **Fleet:** The lease agreement is being prepared for a new electric Luton style box van. We will retain the existing vehicle until the new vehicle is ready. The current lease agreement on the three diesel tipper transits has been extended by 18 months. The Goupil G4 electric vehicle will be delivered by the end of this financial year.

Project Updates

7. **2-6 Canon Street (phase 2) Old Change Court/St Nicholas Cole Abbey:** Drainage issues have now been overcome and planting will be taking place before the end of March.
8. **Finsbury Circus Reinstatement Project:** The planning application was submitted at the beginning of September and the decision is still awaited. The Tender process for the contract to build the new garden and pavilion ended on 4 February 2022. At the time of writing, the submissions were due to be evaluated.
9. **Climate Action Strategy:** City Gardens have secured funding from the Climate Action Group to deliver a climate resilient planting scheme in beds along the river in front of the Boys' School. This project is now on site with clearance works having started, planting will be completed by the end of March.

10. **Vine Street:** Eight new trees are to be planted; the species (Two *Zelkova serrata* and six *Koelreuteria paniculata*), have been selected based on their climate resilience, but have not previously been planted in a highway setting in the City.
11. **Bunhill Fields:** the internal waterpipes in Bunhill Fields have been leaking. We are working with City Surveyors on a project to replace them. City Gardens will be carrying out the trenching works which will be done in sympathetic way around the tree roots. Works to be completed by March.

Planning

12. A list of planning applications that have been received since the last Committee meeting can be found in Appendix 1.

Community, Volunteering and Events

13. The Friends of City Gardens have delivered a number of corporate volunteering days with MACE at Bunhill Fields and at St Bartholomew's the Great.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of planning application Open Spaces consultations February 2022

Jake Tibbetts

City Gardens Manager

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Planning Application Open Spaces Consultations to February 2022

Application number	Location	Description
PT_AC/21/00973/MDC	81 Newgate Street London EC1A 7AJ	Submission of details of tree protection pursuant to condition 41 of planning permission 20/00311/FULMAJ dated 11.09.2020.
PT_GD/21/00983/MDC	City Tower and City Place House 40 - 55 Basinghall Street London EC2V	Submission of a demolition and construction logistics plan and details of tree protection measures pursuant to conditions 8 and 18(j) of planning permission dated 29th September 2021 (ref. 21/00116/FULMAJ). Subsequently withdrawn.
PT_GHS/21/00793/FULMAJ	Ibex House 42 - 47 Minorities London EC3N 1DY	Extensions and alterations of the building of the building, including at ground and lower ground floor on Haydon Street and Portsoken Street (1016sq.m GEA), to incorporate external 'winter gardens' at lower ground floor and creation of external roof terraces. Also showing indicative only changes to the adjacent Portsoken Street and Portsoken Street Garden.
PT_AC/21/00985/FULL	81 Newgate Street London EC1A 7AJ	Application to vary condition 54 (floor areas by land use) and condition 56 (approved plans) of planning permission 11/09/2020 (app. no. 20/00311/FULMAJ) to incorporate various minor material amendments including: winter gardens and terraces within the existing single glazed east, west and south atriums, amendments to the massing of the building and changes to the internal arrangement of the building.
PT_LH/21/00781/FULMAJ	61 - 65 Holborn Viaduct London EC1A 2FD	Re-consultation with some amended documents. Redevelopment of the site for a new building comprising basements, lower ground and ground levels, plus 12 upper floors including purpose-built student accommodation and associated amenity space (Sui Generis), flexible cultural / community use at part ground and lower ground floor levels (Sui Generis), a publicly accessible roof terrace, a pedestrian route through the site, hard and soft landscaping, together with ancillary plant, servicing and enabling works.

Agenda Item 7

Committee(s): Open Spaces & City Gardens	Dated: 15 February 2022
Subject: Bunhill Fields Community Arts Project	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3 & 4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin – Executive Director Environment	For Decision
Report author: Jake Tibbetts, City Gardens Manager	

Summary

City Gardens have been approached by Islington Council's Heritage Service, which is running a community development arts project. They will engage with three local artist-educators over three years to work with the community in order to create one work of art each year. The art works aim to explore the history of the Bunhill area. It is their desire to install these artworks within Bunhill Fields.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- agree in principle for Bunhill Fields to be used to exhibit appropriate art installations;
- nominate the City Gardens Manager to represent the City of London on the steering group;
- that officers report back for approval once details of the specific artworks are available.

Main Report

Background

1. Bunhill fields is owned and managed by the City of London, it is located in the southern part of the London Borough of Islington, within the Bunhill electoral ward. The site is a Grade I listed garden on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

There are numerous listed structures (8 list entries at Grade II* and 68 list entries at Grade II, including the boundary walls and railings). The site is also listed as a Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (SBINC).

2. Islington council's Heritage Service's prime purpose is to enable people to realise their full potential by providing them with full and equal access - appropriate to their various needs - to information, ideas, knowledge and creative works.
3. Bunhill Heritage is a community development project. Islington Heritage Service are working in partnership with the St Luke's community centre, which works to support the lives of residents, creating opportunities for inclusion and development, while improving wellbeing and reducing social isolation.

Current Position

4. Islington Council's Heritage Service has approached City Gardens to request for permission to use Bunhill Fields to exhibit works of art that have been developed by a commissioned artist-educator working with the community. Islington Heritage Service's new heritage project encompasses the history of the whole ward of Bunhill.
5. At this stage it is unclear as to the type, size and appearance of the installation. Any proposed installation may be subject to planning consent depending on its size and impact on the site. NB Islington Council are the planning authority for Bunhill Fields. Due to Bunhill Fields listing; Historic England will need to approve the installation. Any art installation would need to be appropriate for the site, which cannot be assessed until the art installation has been designed.
6. The design process will commence with the resident artist working with the community to develop ideas. Once a final design has been agreed, drawings and/or a scale model will be produced. This will be presented to the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee and the Heritage Team for approval. If it is deemed by either the City of London, Historic England or the Planning authority to not be appropriate for Bunhill Fields, another site in the area will be used.
7. Islington Council intend that the City Corporation is given representation on the project steering group. It is proposed for this to be the City Gardens Manager
8. Details of the project can be found in appendix 1. This report will be accompanied by a presentation to committee from Islington.
9. Islington will take on full liability for any structures or installations installed as part of this project and will be covered by their public liability. Risk assessments and method statements will be submitted to and approved by city of London before installation. Islington will be responsible for costs of any maintenance, repairs, installation, removal and other associated costs.
10. Friends of City Gardens have been in communication with Islington council's Heritage Service and are in support of this project.

11. This type of project would be beneficial for the local community and could not only increase the number of users of Bunhill, but also deliver new ways that the site is engaged with and how it is experienced.

Proposal

12. That the first completed work of public art be temporarily installed in Bunhill Fields for the duration of one year, beginning January 2023.

Options

13. **Option 1.** The request is refused, and Islington find other sites for their installations. There are no benefits to the City beyond this being the lowest risk approach. **Not recommended**

14. **Option 2.** Committee agree for this to proceed on the basis that:

1. the City Gardens Manager represents the City of London on the Steering Group.
2. The final design is presented to Open Spaces Committee for approval for use in the site (see paragraph 8)

Option Two is recommended

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. Strategic implications –Corporate Plan Outcomes:

3. People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.
4. Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

Financial implications – There are no financial implications for the City as this is funded by Islington Council

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - Any art installation approved would need to be assessed against and comply with City Corporation policy, byelaws and legislation.

Any art installation approval would also be subject to the relevant planning considerations and listed building consents.

Equalities implications – Islington Heritage Service are partnering with the St Luke's Centre. St Luke's work with communities considered to be at risk including elderly residents, families, vulnerable young people, women's groups, asylum seekers and people of all ages with disabilities. The project aims to further inclusion and integration and promote wellbeing across the community.

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

Conclusion

16. The City should support this cross-borough project as outlined in option 2 above. The project will enrich and activate the space in new ways, encourage new visitors into the space and support City gardens business plan objectives.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Bunhill Heritage – Project Overview

Jake Tibbetts

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Bunhill Heritage – Project Overview

The following document outlines the aims and intentions of a new community heritage project by Islington Heritage Service.

Using the history of the ward of Bunhill and the focal point of Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, Islington Council wishes to create three works of public art over three years. The work will be created by an artist-educator-in-residence at the St Luke's Centre, who will lead 12 art workshops with the local community. The outcomes of these workshops will help inform the creation of a work of public art.

Islington Heritage Service recognises the ownership and management of Bunhill Fields by the City of London, that it is Grade I listed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens and is a Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. Bunhill Fields is located within the Bunhill Fields / Finsbury Square Conservation Area.

Subject to all site requirements and in keeping with the historic nature of location, we ask in principle that the completed work of public art be temporarily installed in Bunhill Fields for the duration of one year, beginning January 2023.

Background

Bunhill Fields is a historic burial ground for religious non-conformists, dissenters and intellectuals. Located in Islington, the site is owned and managed by the City of London.

The name Bunhill is a derivation of 'Bone Hill', indicating the site's use as a depository for dried human bones from the charnel house in St Paul's Cathedral in the 16th century. In 1665, the City of London prepared the field as a burial ground for plague victims but it was never consecrated nor used for this purpose. It subsequently became the main burial ground for non-conformists in London.

The ward of Bunhill is located in the southernmost part of the London Borough of Islington, bordering Hackney and the City of London. It is an area with a unique history, where nestled amongst new high-rise developments are historic buildings, cultural community hubs and a significant amount of private and social housing.

The burial ground was in use from 1665 – 1854, at which point it became a public garden. It is the resting place for over 120,000 people, including many radical and dissenting figures such as artist William Blake, writer Daniel Defoe, writer and preacher John Bunyan, sculptor and businesswoman Eleanor Coade, and many others such as Susanna Wesley, known for being the 'Mother of Methodism.'

Following WWII, the site was redesigned as a modern park, with the surviving tombstones protected behind high railings. Behind the railings the grass has been allowed to grow naturally, creating an area of biodiversity. Bunhill Fields is one of only a few large green spaces in the ward, but is underused by its residents.

Bunhill (the ward) is now a densely populated area of South Islington. Within the ward is a large number of new developments, stretching into the City. At one point in Bunhill's history, prior to WWII, it was the most densely populated area anywhere in the UK, along with neighbouring Clerkenwell. While the population has increased significantly in the last decades, it remains less populated than it was at other points in its history.

Project Aims

Bunhill Heritage is a community development project. Islington Heritage Service works to support the lives of residents, creating opportunities for inclusion and development, while improving wellbeing and reducing social isolation. We work with key demographics such as families and under-5s, young people and over-55s, as well as the many diverse communities in Islington.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have brought home the need for the local authority to help residents safely access community services and outdoor green spaces.

Using the history of Bunhill Fields as an anchor, Islington Heritage Service's new heritage project encompasses the history of the whole ward of Bunhill. We will do this in part by partnering with the St Luke's Community Centre, Central Street.

Community Engagement – Artist-Educator-in-Residence

Islington Heritage Service wish to engage **3 local artist-educators over 3 years** to work with the community in order to create 3 works of public art, exploring the radical history of Bunhill as the inspiration for the artwork.

Each contracted artist-educator will be experienced in community art projects and leading workshops. The outcomes of those creative workshops will help inspire the creation of a work of public art. The art will draw on the history of Bunhill, the ward and the burial ground, with focus on some of the notable figures interred at Bunhill Fields, for example, the life and work of William Blake.

There will be three artist residencies during the project. Each residency will last 1 year.

- Residency 1: January 2022 – January 2023
- Residency 2: January 2023 – January 2024
- Residency 3: January 2024 – January 2025

At the time of writing, the form and structure of the completed artwork is not known. It is possible that the work may be in the form of images on posters or canvasses, a single structure, along the railings or at a designated location in the site. A proposed location is the Garden Area in the northern part of the site, where there is ample space for public art and will not impede any walkways.

Islington Heritage Service wishes to work constructively with the City of London to permit the formal exhibition of the completed work in Bunhill Fields. Although not essential that Bunhill Fields be the primary location of the artwork, it is our belief that this collaborative work of art, if located in

Bunhill Fields, will allow residents of Bunhill and the City of London to better enjoy their public spaces and feel part of their community.

Islington Heritage Service will be the primary overseer of the project, but the installation of any artwork in Bunhill Fields can only take place with the assistance of the City's officers in the Environment Department, and approval from its Members.

The completed artwork will sit within the framework of the Bunhill Conservation Management Plan, such as interpreting Bunhill Fields' role as the pre-eminent historic non-conformist burial ground in England, while balancing and enhancing its significance within the community.

Benefit to the Community

Islington Heritage Service has a proven track record of supporting communities as well as preserving and celebrating objects of historical interest. Community heritage projects work to improve the lives of residents through inclusion and participation. They instil a sense of pride of place and enable residents to feel more involved in what their community has to offer. They also serve to reduce social isolation and promote wellbeing.

Our projects focus on key groups in the community:

- Families and under-5s: Providing free and high quality activities focussed on early-intervention which benefit children's wellbeing and development. We do these through walks and story activities, arts and crafts workshops and library initiatives. We provide support for parents/cares and stimulating activities for children.
- Over-55s: Residents who may be at greater risk of social isolation. Free talks and events such as walks, story-sharing, exhibitions, workshops, tea and coffee mornings and local history groups.

In this project, the artist-educator will lead between 10-12 workshops at the St Luke's Centre, with arts and heritage as the focus. Residents who participate will learn about the heritage of their community, develop artistic skills and create works that will inspire the final work, as well as creating their own work that be incorporated into an exhibition following the completion of the project.

Our aim is that local residents feel they have been consulted and involved in the creation of the work of public art. They will feel better able to access arts and heritage organisations, develop knowledge and feel a sense of public ownership.

Local residents of Bunhill will be encouraged to take part, and need not exclusively be service users of the St Luke's Centre. Moreover, if the final work is to be exhibited in Bunhill Fields, we recommend the participation of nearby residents of the City of London.

Throughout the duration of this project, a programme of year-round engagement activities will support the project. These activities are aimed at our key target groups and exist separately to the workshops. Though intended for local residents, they can be attended by anyone.

Governance Structure

Project lead:	Seán McGovern, Bunhill Heritage Project Manager
Reporting to:	Cheryl Smith, Head of Heritage
Reporting to:	Bunhill Ward Cllrs Troy Gallagher, Phil Graham, Valerie Bossman-Quarshie

If the City of London agrees in principle to allow the completed work of art to be displayed, the Heritage Project Manager and Artist-in-Residence will produce an interpretation of the work by September 2022. This interpretation will inform City Members that the work is in keeping with the nature of the site as well as indicating that all site requirements have been met.

Islington Heritage Service will liaise with officers of the City's Environment Department to insure these site requirements are known and implemented.

Project Steering Group

A steering group will advise on progress of the project throughout its development.

The group will be comprised of officers of Islington Heritage Service, officers of St Luke's Charitable Trust, service users of St Luke's, a local councillor, a local historian and a member of Friends of City Gardens. We recommend that an officer of the City of London's Environment Department joins the steering group, representing the views and interests of the City of London.

Planning and Conservation

Rachel Godden, Islington Planning Officer, is advising on matters relating to planning and conservation and has previously worked for Historic England.

Public Liability Assessment

Any proposed structures will be properly maintained by Islington Council and assessed by a structural engineer. All necessary precautions will be undertaken as the artwork is completed.

For more information on the project, please contact:

Seán McGovern, Bunhill Heritage Project Manager, sean.mcgovern@islington.gov.uk

About the Artist-Educator-in-Residence

Georgie Fay

Georgie Fay is a participatory artist and printmaker based in London. At the core of her artistic vision is a search for place and connections, in landscape and history. She explores critical themes like the mounting tensions between humankind and nature, and the importance of memory and place. Her work captures a visceral energy and stitches together the sometimes ephemeral. Fay's areas of investigation derive from her personal experiences whether that be the mundane city pavements, migrating flight patterns or journeys undertaken; she engages in the everyday, and seeks to connect with others through these observations and journeys.

Georgie says:

"I feel so honoured and excited to be part of the Bunhill Heritage Project. To have the opportunity to make work with the local community in response to such an exciting and inspiring place is going to push my practice and help me to move forward as a participatory artist and printmaker. I cannot wait to spend time exploring the burial ground, researching the archives, finding more out about the people who live in this historically rich area and then making art in response to all these incredible stimuli."



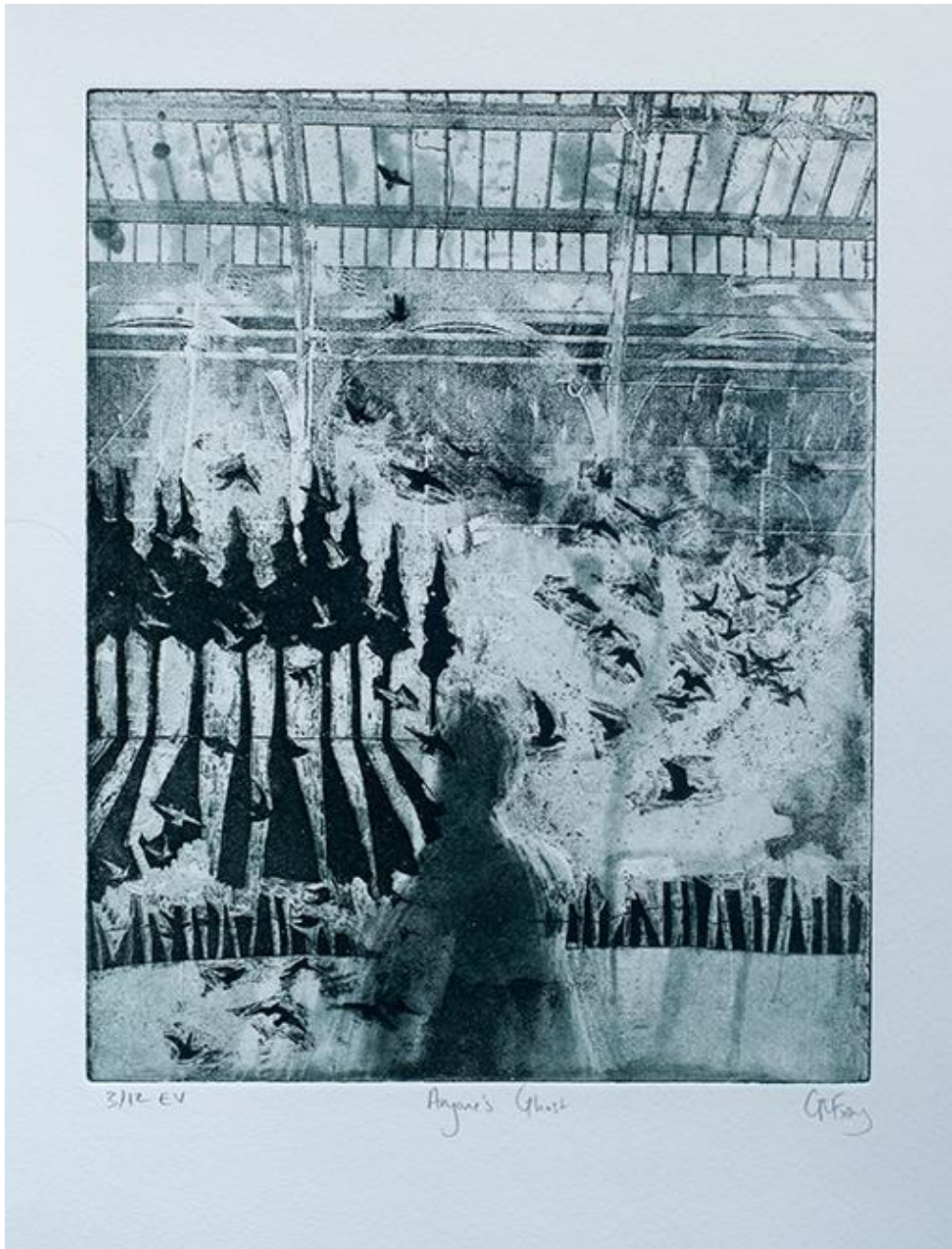


Figure 1 Anyone's Ghost, G. Fay

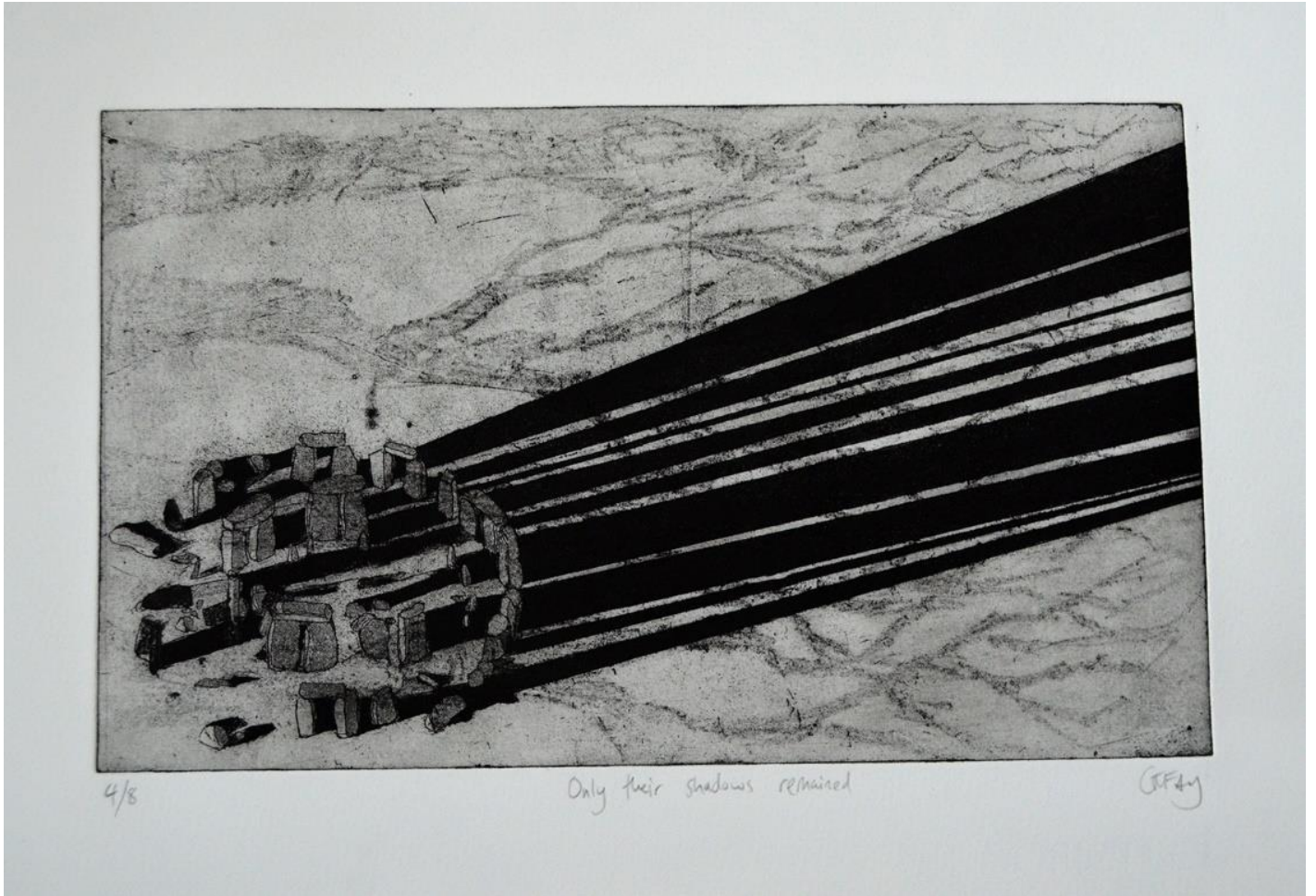


Figure 2 Only Their Shadows Remained, G. Fay

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