



Open Spaces in the Media

Summary of coverage June 2021 – September 2021



Beautiful wildflower meadow blossoms at former Covid-19 mortuary site at Wanstead Flats

The [Daily Mail](#) reported that the City Corporation has planted a wildflower meadow on the site of the former Wanstead Flats COVID-19 temporary mortuary. Chairman of the Epping Forest Committee, Graeme Doshi-Smith, was quoted. Widespread national and regional coverage in over 200 articles, including in the

[Evening Standard](#), [Daily Mail](#), [ITV](#), [Horticulture Week](#), [Newham Recorder](#), [Ilford Recorder](#), [City Matters](#) and [Epping Forest Guardian](#).

From disused nursery to homes and parkland

The [Newham Recorder](#) reported on proposals to transform a vacant plant nursery adjoining West Ham Park to create additional parkland, facilities and new homes. Chairman of the West Ham Park Committee, Oliver Sells QC, was quoted. Further coverage in [City Matters](#)

Chairman of the West Ham Park Committee, Oliver Sells QC, wrote in the [Newham Recorder](#) about a new exhibition at the park and plans progressing for the former nursery site.

Kites fly high on Hampstead Heath to mark 1871 Act's 150th anniversary

Chair of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee Anne Fairweather was interviewed live on [BBC Radio London's Robert Elms Show](#) (skip to 2.20.30) about the Heath 150 celebrations. The City of London Corporation was mentioned and the Chair was pictured in a [Ham&High](#) article. [BBC London](#), [Horticulture Week](#) [i](#), [ii](#) (£) and [Ham&High](#) also reported on celebrations marking the anniversary. The Chair was interviewed live on [BBC Radio London's Robert Elms Show](#) (from 2.20.30) about the Heath 150 celebrations.

[Ham&High](#) ran an opinion piece by the Hampstead Heath Management Committee Chair, on the programme of events to celebrate 150 years of the Hampstead Heath Act.

Gardener's Question Time

Hampstead Heath Hill Garden Pergola Head Gardener, Ashley Hunt, was interviewed by [BBC Radio 4's Gardener's Question Time](#) [skip to 13 minutes].

Cyclists get the green light at Wanstead Park

Chairman of the Epping Forest Committee, Graeme Doshi-Smith, wrote in [Epping Forest Guardian](#) about the approval of plans to allow cycling on Wanstead Park. Further coverage in [This is Local London](#).

[Ilford Recorder](#) covered the City Corporation's decision to relax historic restrictions on cycling in Wanstead Park. The Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, was quoted. Further coverage in the [Epping Forest Guardian](#).

Restoration of green spaces begins after lockdown damage

[Ham&High](#) reported that the City of London Corporation-managed Hampstead Heath swimming ponds, which closed last week due to flooding, have now reopened. A City of London Corporation spokesperson is quoted. Further coverage in [Environment Journal](#).

[BBC Radio Berkshire](#) reported on volunteers who are working to tidy up the City of London Corporation-owned Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. Graeme Doshi-Smith, Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee and a volunteer were interviewed

Stopping fly tipping in Epping Forest

The [Epping Forest Guardian](#) quoted the Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee in news 10 people have been fined more than £9K for large amounts of fly tipping in Epping Forest. Continuing coverage appeared in the [Express](#), [Mirror](#), [Essex Live](#), [The Washington Time](#), [New York Times Post](#), [Epping Forest Guardian](#), and [City Matters](#).

City Corporation study finds benefits of outdoor learning on children with autism

[The I](#) reported on a City of London Corporation study into educating autistic children in nature. The Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee Oliver Sells QC was quoted. Also covered by media including [MSN](#), [FE News and](#) [City Matters](#)

Legal challenge to charging at the Heath ponds moves forward in court

The Guardian ([i](#), [ii](#)) reported on a disabled swimmer taking legal action against the City Corporation over Hampstead Heath swimming pond charges. A City Corporation spokesperson was quoted. Also covered by [Evening Standard](#), [BBC London](#), [Islington Gazette](#) and [Ham&High](#).

[BBC News](#) reported that a disabled swimmer has won the right to challenge above-inflation rises to the cost of swimming at Hampstead Ponds. Christina Efthimiou, 59, argued that the current charging regime at the ponds disproportionately adversely affects disabled people. A High Court judge approved Ms Efthimiou's bid for a judicial review against the City of London Corporation, for whom a spokesperson was quoted in the piece. Further coverage ran on [BBC London News \(lunchtime\)](#) (00:15), [BBC London News \(evening\)](#) 17:50), [BBC London News \(night\)](#) (03:43), [BBC Radio London Drivetime](#) [skip to 1:15:00 and 1:48:00] and appeared in [The Guardian](#).

Modernisation of the City of London's Cemetery and Crematorium

Chairman of the Port Heath and Environmental Services Committee Keith Bottomley was quoted in a [City Matters](#) article on work to modernise the City of London Cemetery & Crematorium.

New provider to run City of London Cemetery and Crematorium

Chairman of the City of London Corporation's Port Heath and Environmental Services Committee, Keith Bottomley, was quoted in a story in [City Matters](#), and [Newham Recorder](#) regarding the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium's announcement that charity Royal Voluntary Service will take over the running of its on-site café.

Outdoor nature scheme helps youngsters learn

Chairman of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee Oliver Sells QC was quoted in the [Epping Forest Guardian](#) and [J99news](#) about the positive impact of an outdoor learning programme which helped 45,000 young Londoners during the pandemic.