

September 2021



MEMBERS' BRIEFING



LORD MAYOR

Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority (NIFCA) Memorandum of Understanding, 27 July

President Kenyatta led a Kenyan delegation to Mansion House, alongside the Foreign Secretary to build a deeper partnership between the UK and Kenya in financial services and green investment. The Lord Mayor and President Kenyatta signed a Memorandum of Understanding between TheCityUK and NIFCA.

Leeds and Sheffield Visit, 29-30 July

This was the the Lord Mayor's first in-person regional visit since March 2020, enabling him to meet the new Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, and to visit the National Infrastructure Bank on its first day in its new office in Leeds. The Lord Mayor also engaged with Leeds City Council and Leeds-based businesses including Yorkshire Building Society, Iwoca and the Open Data Institute Leeds. The visit allowed the resumption of the annual Forfeit Feast in Sheffield with the Cutlers of Hallamshire and for the Lord Mayor to conduct his own business programme in Sheffield for the first time.

Indian Cricket Dinner, 7 September

The Lord Mayor hosted British and Indian businesses for a dinner at Mansion House to celebrate the economic and cultural links between the UK and India. The Secretary of State for International Trade attended and spoke at the event which was timed to coincide with the start of the England-India test series.

Two Cities Lunch with the Lord Mayor of Westminster, 8 September

The Lord Mayor attended the annual Two Cities Lunch with the outgoing Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Jonathan Glanz. The lunch brings together civic and political stakeholders from both Cities.

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Virtual Visit, 8-10 September

This timely virtual visit built on the UK attaining ASEAN Dialogue Partner status, the backdrop of HMG's Indo-Pacific tilt, and took place ahead of the inaugural UK-ASEAN Economic Minister's Consultation, where financial services are a priority area of discussion. The Lord Mayor held virtual meetings in Singapore (discussing Digital Trade), Vietnam (meeting the Minister of Finance), Indonesia (engaging with the Finance Ministry, Sovereign Wealth Fund and regulators) and Thailand (hosting a fintech roundtable). The ASEAN Deputy Secretary General was keen for collaboration with UK financial and professional services firms.

Innovation and Agility: the next chapter in Financial Services & the City Roundtable, 9 September

The Lord Mayor met representatives from several Australian fintech firms considering entry to the UK market. He explained why they should view the UK positively, why innovation in financial services is so important for post-pandemic recovery and how the City can support Australian entrants to the UK market.

Green Horizons Summit (GHS)@COP Strategic Reception, 9 September

This reception announced the full list of sponsors for GHS@COP26. They heard first-hand from UK Government representatives planning COP26 and met City Corporation staff delivering the GHS@COP26 programme.

High Commissioners' Banquet, 13 September

The Lord Mayor welcomed attendees to Guildhall for the High Commissioners banquet. Speakers included Dr Yueh (Chair, Royal Commonwealth Society), Lord Marland (Chair, Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council), James Duddridge (Minister for Africa) and Baroness Vadera (Chair, Prudential).

China Virtual Visit, 13-17 September

The fourth of the Lord Mayor's virtual visits to China sought to promote London as the centre for global asset allocation and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance investing) with a strong business delegation of asset and wealth managers, and the London Stock Exchange Group. The visit consisted of meetings with small groups of asset managers, as well as larger workshops with several companies. The Lord Mayor co-chaired the UK-China Green Finance Taskforce session with Dr Ma Jun at the Green Investment Principles for Belt and Road Annual Meeting. The Lord Mayor also promoted GHS@COP26, highlighting Sino-UK thought leadership in sustainable finance.

Commonwealth Trade and Investment Summit (CTIS), 14 September

The Lord Mayor took part in a virtual panel event during the CTIS. The discussion focused on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and decreasing trade barriers across Africa.

Kuwait Joint Steering Group Roundtable, 15 September

This roundtable, held by the Lord Mayor, facilitated discussion on priority themes between the Bank of England and the Central Bank of Kuwait, highlighting areas of interest for the City.

UK-UAE Prosperity and Innovation Partnership Reception, 16 September

The Lord Mayor attended a reception hosted by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street in honour of the President of the UAE. The event celebrated the new UK-UAE Prosperity and Innovation Partnership.

CHIEF COMMONER

Back to Near Normal

Guildhall and Mansion House have sprung back to life with major dinners and receptions; the largest gathering in Great Hall since the first lockdown bringing together nearly 300 guests for the Commonwealth High Commissioners' Banquet. Mansion House held a similarly well attended dinner for the City Regulators.

The transition to the new mayoralty is taking place more or less as usual with a Lord Mayor's Show and all other associated events, and after a two-year break, the Lord Mayor's Banquet is scheduled for 15 November. Double invitations will be sent to Members in due course.

In another significant step back to normal, the City Corporation's local and police authority committees will be returning to in-house meetings from 7 October. Although these meetings will continue to be live-streamed, Members will have to attend if they wish to take part and vote. Other committees and working groups which conduct non-local authority business may continue as hybrid – depending on Members' wishes.

Guildhall staff are returning to their offices, but they are also continuing to work some days from home.

My own programme as Chief Commoner has upgraded from near normal to hectic with invitations to events cascading into my in-box. I am attending as many outward looking events as possible. Typically, on the last Sunday of September I attended a Bangladeshi street festival at Aldgate, the sheep fair on Southwark Bridge and a celebration for the Costermongers at St Mary-le-Bow in Cheapside.



It's great to see the City buzzing with life again but, as always, it is wise to remain vigilant and to continue taking regular lateral flow tests for COVID-19. The virus may be more under control, but it hasn't gone away.

On another issue, Members will shortly receive an email setting out the instructions for registering for future payments of the allowance to which they are now entitled.

Brian Mooney MA CC

Contact [Devika Persaud](#)

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Virtual lunch with German Deputy Head of Mission

On 6 September, the Policy Chair led a virtual roundtable discussion with Julia Gross, the German Deputy Head of Mission. The meeting explored the role of financial services in supporting the economic recovery, the UK's bilateral relationship with Germany, and G7 policy continuity as the UK hand over to Germany.

Department for International Trade Roundtable

On 6 September, the Policy Chair attended a roundtable with the then Secretary of State for International Trade, Rt Hon Liz Truss MP. The event was also attended by representatives from the financial and professional services trade associations, and the discussion focussed on the UK's trade and investment agenda and the opportunities it affords for Financial Services.

Visit to Switzerland

The Policy Chair's first international visit for some time was to Bern, Switzerland in early September. Hosted by the UK Ambassador, the Policy Chair spoke at a conference on the road to decarbonisation and Green Finance, and also met senior representatives from the Swiss Finance Ministry, the World Economic Forum and Swiss Re.

Liberal Democrat Conference

At the start of the party conference season, the Policy Chair attended the Liberal Democrat Party Conference which was held on a virtual basis again this year from 17-20 September. The Policy Chair hosted a roundtable organised by the Social Market Foundation thinktank on climate resilience and local government, which was addressed by the party's Climate Change and Energy Spokesperson Wera Hobhouse MP and attended by MPs, Peers and Councillors from across the party. During the virtual conference, 1:1 meetings were also held with London Assembly Member Caroline Pidgeon AM and Business Spokesperson Sarah Olney MP.

Labour Party Conference

Following a week later, the Labour Party met in person for its annual conference in Brighton. The Policy Chair hosted the City of London Corporation's keynote dinner for the party's national, regional and local elected politicians alongside representatives from the financial and profession services sector. The guest speaker was the former Shadow City Minister and now Shadow Cabinet member Johnny Reynolds MP. The Policy Chair also hosted a roundtable with the Fabian Society think tank on financial services with the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury Bridget Philipson MP, and spoke at a joint Labour and Bloomberg event on the race to net zero, and at the Labour Business Party Forum reception.

Northern Ireland Business Showcase Reception

On the eve of the UK Government-organised Northern Ireland Business Showcase (at the QEII Conference Centre), the City Corporation hosted a drinks reception on 14 September at Guildhall for politicians and delegates attending the conference, including the First Minister Paul Givan MLA and the Irish Ambassador. The event was addressed by the Policy Chair alongside the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Brandon Lewis.

Competitiveness Strategy

The City Corporation's new [Competitiveness Strategy](#) has set our agenda for our work to strengthen and promote the UK-based financial and related professional services industry. This is well aligned with the industry as evidenced in The City UK's recent report on [Making the UK the leading global financial centre](#).

Contact [Richard Messingham](#)

Any Member wishing to know our policy position on any subject can contact the Director of Communications [Bob Roberts](#) or the Head of Corporate Affairs [Eugenie de Naurois](#).

PARLIAMENTARY/GLA

Environment Bill

Peers considered the Environment Bill's air quality provisions at Report stage, including two amendments tabled by Lord Tope (Lib Dem) which were developed by the City of London Corporation, London Councils, and Clean Air in London. The first amendment proposed greater local authority powers to tackle non-road emissions, through the establishment of 'Air Quality Improvement Areas'. The second proposed an increase in penalty for the offence of stationary idling committed within 'Air Quality Improvement Areas'. Both proposals had cross-party support, with the primary amendment having been co-signed by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (Green), Lord Whitty (Labour), and Lord Randall of Uxbridge (Conservative), with speeches in support also made by Baroness Walmsley (Lib Dem) and Baroness Hayman of Ullock (Labour). Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Conservative) also spoke in support of the stationary idling amendment. Responding, the Minister, Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist, agreed that "ambitious action is needed" and outlined the air quality provisions already existing in the Bill. She said the Bill strengthened the local Air Quality Management framework "to bring in a broader range of partners to work with local authorities to improve air quality and to make it easier for them to use their powers." She acknowledged the "cumbersome processes that LAs have to go through" and said the Government are "aware of these issues with procedures" and "plan to consult later this year on potential legislative reforms to make it easier and quicker to make orders." This consultation should present further potential levers in advancing the air quality agenda.

Jobs, Growth and Productivity after Coronavirus

The Treasury Committee heard evidence focusing on labour market shortages as part of their inquiry into jobs, growth and productivity after Coronavirus. Rain Newton-Smith, Chief Economist at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), expressed her surprise at the low levels of unemployment, given dire predictions about the state of the economy a year ago in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions, including concerns about a "double digit" percentage rate of unemployment. In contrast, the economy was facing challenges from a "mismatch" between demand and supply as it reopens. Newton-Smith said that the unwinding of furlough would help labour market shortages to an extent, but was unlikely alleviate wider problems resulting from staffing challenges, noting that 1.9 million people were on furlough at the end of June. Despite Newton-Smith's optimism, Professor Chris Manning from the London School of Economics did note that unemployment and inactivity remain above pre-pandemic levels. Manning also highlighted longstanding issues in the UK's skills system which led to the shortages faced by employers. Paul Nowick, Deputy General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, called for the introduction of a short-time working scheme, to allow firms experiencing economic difficulties temporarily to reduce the hours worked while providing their employees with income support from the state for the hours not worked. Nowick argued that a targeted scheme could help reduce frictions in adjustments in the labour market. On the recent announcement of an increase in National Insurance contributions, Newton-Smith said she could not quantify the impact, but noted that one CBI member reported seeing an impact of the increase with profits "reduced next year by 25%". Manning claimed the increase as "probably neutral" on job creation but said that that the move is "regressive" with wealthier people likely to gain the most from related changes to social care provision.

Mayor of London – Climate Action

Speaking at the Barbican, the Mayor of London warned that time was running out to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and tackle the "climate emergency." His remarks came ahead of COP26, the expansion of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone, and the anticipated passage into law of the Environment Bill. The Mayor unveiled research showing that six London boroughs – Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Brent, Tower Hamlets and Newham – as being at particularly high risk from the effects of climate change, such as flooding and overheating. More generally, a City Hall analysis has found that a quarter of London's rail stations are at a high risk of flooding, as are 20% of schools and over 200,000 homes. The Mayor used his speech to launch a London-wide environment campaign to inspire Londoners, whether individuals, businesses or communities, to take action of their own on climate change, as well as calling on the Government to devolve more powers and funds to mayors and local authorities to enable them to deliver on the ground.

Contact [James Edwards](#)

£25k donation to Haiti Earthquake Appeal

The City of London Corporation has donated £25,000 to a fund set up to support the aid effort in earthquake-hit Haiti and is urging other City organisations to play their part. The donation to the British Red Cross Haiti Earthquake Appeal from the City Corporation's International Disasters Fund will help provide urgent relief to the Caribbean nation. More than 2,000 people were killed, 12,000 injured and 130,000 homes destroyed or damaged following the 7.2 magnitude quake which hit the south west of the country earlier this month, while tropical storms have further hampered aid co-ordination. The money will support vital relief operations, including providing temporary shelter, restoring water and sanitation facilities and providing medical and psychological support to people affected. Donations to the British Red Cross Haiti Earthquake Appeal can be made online via [their website](#).

Contact [Tim Fletcher](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

UK Competitiveness

Trade in Environmental Services: On 14 September, IG published [International Trade in Environmental Services: Barriers to trade and approaches to liberalisation](#). This report provides an overview of the key issues, barriers and approaches to the international trade in environmental services and opens the door to further research in this important area.

Voluntary Carbon Markets: The City Corporation has been appointed a Founding Sponsor of the new Global Umbrella Governance Body for voluntary carbon markets. The selection process was led by the Taskforce for Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets, chaired by Bill Winters, CEO of Standard Chartered, and initiated by Mark Carney, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance.

Lunch with Commissioner: The Policy Chair and Lord Mayor hosted the European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union, Mairead McGuinness to discuss sustainable finance, UK-EU relations, fintech and anti-money laundering. The lunch was attended by representatives from City-based organisations and trade bodies.

Episode 3 of Green Horizon Perspectives, 21 September during Climate Week NYC: As part of the Road to COP26 series of events, [The Next Frontier: Investing in a Nature Positive Economy](#) looked at the role of the financial sector in directing capital flows towards supporting the preservation and restoration of nature. With a varied agenda of panel discussions, videos and keynote messages, it included an opening speech from Professor Dasgupta, who led the HM Treasury review on the economics of biodiversity. During the event, the Policy Chair announced the City Corporation is joining the Race to Zero and committing to the UK100 membership pledge, and the GHS@COP26 programme was launched.

Socio-economic diversity taskforce: We are asking businesses to survey their workforce, to develop baseline data on socio-economic diversity at senior levels. If your business constituents would like to participate, please visit the [WhoGetsAhead page](#) on the City of London website.

Heart of the City: The Lord Mayor is hosting a breakfast at Mansion House on 27 October for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to learn about Heart of the City's free climate action course, as part of the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy. Please invite SMEs in your ward and email [Maggie Berry](#) for invitation details.

Culture and Visitor Services

Creative activations: [The City's Outdoor Arts Programme](#) was launched on 13 June and since then events and activations in the City have attracted external funding totalling £525k and audiences of 20,232 (excludes outdoor exhibition programmes). As part of this, diversity has featured heavily including [Black Victorians](#), and [Mela in the City](#). A significant number of sustainability events are planned for November, coinciding with COP26.

Destination marketing: To attract domestic visitors back to the City, we have been running a series of marketing campaigns including: [Picture the City](#), a photography competition receiving 2,000 entries and widespread media coverage; a bus-stop poster campaign across 180 sites in Zones 2-6 and a Magic and Kiss radio campaign promoting the City's hospitality and family offers.

Strategic Destination Review: Stakeholder meetings have begun to inform a new strategic destination review which will seek to position the City as the world's most attractive destination for visitors, workers and residents. A governance framework was presented in September and approved by the Policy & Resources and Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committees.

Culture Mile

Annual Report 2020-21: Culture Mile's [Annual Report 2020-21](#) has been launched, showcasing 21 projects delivered with a diverse and dynamic range of partners.

BID Development: 15 organisations have joined the Culture Mile business partnership. The public launch of the partnership will take place in mid-November.

Cross-Sector Collaboration: Culture Mile is now advancing several of the recommendations of the Culture & Commerce Taskforce including Creative Exchange (a skills and knowledge exchange programme across the financial, professional services and cultural sectors, supported by Bloomberg) and City Vistas (a programme to animate offices and retail spaces with cultural activities and installations).

Creative Spaces: PLAY hARmony is a new Culture Mile commission by Brookfield Properties featuring original music and augmented reality art from Guildhall School students and LSO mentors. The exhibition went live in London Wall Place on 27 September.

Contact [Sam Lagan](#)

Bridge House Estates (BHE)

Climate Strategy

Over the summer months further analysis of the City Corporation and BHE's climate related financial risk and opportunity was performed, resulting in a comprehensive engagement and implementation plan, and new commitments to bring all investment portfolios to net zero by 2040. In addition, the BHE Board agreed there could be separate consideration on the long-term approach for BHE given its charitable status. They proposed to consider and develop an ethical investment framework for property and non-property investments. It was also agreed that the City Corporation as trustee for BHE becomes a signatory to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change.

Governance

The BHE Board approved the establishment of a Grants Committee of the Board. They discussed its proposed constitution and terms of reference, agreeing that four Members of the Court of Common Council, preferably Members of the Board, plus two external Co-opted Members, would be appropriate. They also agreed the Committee be reappointed annually by the Board, and Co-opted Members to be appointed for up to three years, after the current year.

Tower Bridge

With the tourism sector slowly recovering, Tower Bridge saw 4.5K visitors in the week prior to the school holidays, which grew to 11.5K at its peak in August. This figure has decreased since schools resumed; however, the Bridge is still welcoming higher levels of visitors than before the summer recess began. Older age groups are returning and even a surprising number of international visitors. The Bridge has seen record levels of engagement with family activities and autism-friendly early openings. It scored a record 93% in this year's Visit England assessment, retained the Sandford Award for Heritage Education and won a Trip Advisor Traveller's Choice Award. Major projects continue apace at the Bridge. An upgrade of bridge driving software has just been completed, a 10-month project to replace the Bridge's hydraulics system is reaching its conclusion, and a year-long overhaul of the Bridge's high voltage electrical system starts in October.

City Bridge Trust (CBT)

CBT continues to open new funding programmes to support the sector at a particularly challenging time and via its 'Cornerstone' Fund and other initiatives, is working with London's anchor organisations to support a progressive and inclusive civil society. Through the 'Bridge' and 'Strive' programmes, CBT promotes non-financial support. CBT is also supporting the Afghan resettlement through the Corporate Volunteering programme and grant-making. The team is also collaborating across the sector on London's recovery.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

Open Spaces

Cattle return to Wanstead Park

The Epping Forest cows returned to graze on Wanstead Park, one of the southern-most tips of the ancient woodland in east London. Following a successful pilot scheme reintroducing historic grazing to the heritage landscape of Wanstead Park last year, three cows were brought to Wanstead Park in the summer. They will help restore the biodiversity of the landscape, particularly benefiting flora, insects, and help conserve its important acid grassland. An overwhelming number of locals signed-up to help as volunteers to assist with taking care of the cows whilst they are free ranging in the parkland, thanks to the invisible fencing technology which the City Corporation has helped to pilot and champion in the UK.

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

Clean City Award Scheme (CCAS) is open for applications!

The Clean City Award Scheme opened for applications on 13 September meaning that any CCAS member can apply for an award in the following categories; Plastic Free City; Resource and Circular Economy; Communication and Engagement; Air Quality and Climate Action. The theme for this years Chairman's Cup is "embedding environmental and sustainability issues to install a resilient recovery post the COVID-19 outbreak". The CCAS is open to all businesses within the Square Mile and it's not too late to join. If there are any businesses within your Ward which are striving to be more sustainable and deserve recognition for the great work they have already achieved, the CCAS could be for them. Deadline for submission of awards is 15 October 2021. In addition to awards, CCAS members receive monthly e-newsletters, invites to regular meetings and access to resource packs.

Recycling Rainbow at St Pauls during Recycle Week 2021

As part of Recycle Week 2021, the Recycling Team partnered with Every Can Counts to install a large recycling rainbow outside St Pauls Cathedral. The rainbow garnered national press coverage including in the Independent and TimeOut. The rainbow, featuring over 2,500 aluminium cans, encouraged passers by to "Step it up" for Recycle Week and to remember drink cans are endlessly recyclable.

CCAS and Climate Action Teams join forces

The CCAS Team are co-hosting an event with the Climate Action Team on 6 October. The event will enable attendees to discuss the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy, COP26 and what businesses can do to support climate action.

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

Markets and Consumer Protection

Ambassador of Iceland visits Billingsgate Market

On 25 August, John Chapman, Markets Committee Chairman, hosted a visit to Billingsgate Market by the Ambassador of Iceland to the United Kingdom, Sturla Sigurjónsson. Following a tour of the market hall to see the excellent produce on offer, the Ambassador was briefed on proposals to co-locate the three wholesale markets in Dagenham.

Contact [Daniel Ritchie](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

Call to increase funding to tackle cyber enabled crime

Under-funded by police resources and under-reported by victims, but overwhelming for many who fall prey to it, fraud was the main focus of the City of London Police Authority Board Dinner on 9 September. The keynote for the event was the newly appointed Security Minister, Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, with attendees including the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Tom Winsor; London Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden and the Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Marc Jones. The Chair of the Board, James Thomson, called upon the Government to increase police resources for tackling cyber-enabled crime – which accounts for 80% of fraud – and told the audience that local forces should prioritise investigating fraud. Stressing the impact of fraud, he pointed out that "fraud is now the single biggest crime type, making up one-third of all crimes and it is not, as perceived by some, a victimless crime. "Not only does fraud affect millions of UK citizens each year, some of whom are very vulnerable, it weakens our economy and threatens our international reputation as a safe place in which to do business." Turning, in particular, to the forthcoming Online Safety Bill, he urged Government policy makers to broaden the Bill's scope to include fraud as one of the designated 'priority harms', as well as paid-for advertising, which is currently supporting the spread of investment scams. "It is vital for online platforms, such as social media companies, to take a legal responsibility to identify, remove, and prevent false and fraudulent activity on their websites. Regrettably, this is something they have failed to do effectively to date, so introducing the right regulatory framework is now essential."

Contact [Alex Orme](#)

City of London Police

Media Coverage

Against a backdrop of Extinction Rebellion protests in the City at the beginning of September, the response to which was led by the Metropolitan Police Service with the City of London Police and British Transport Police, there was additional media coverage of a number of issues for City of London Police. Action Fraud campaigns on pet fraud, romance fraud and courier fraud all achieved regional coverage, with an interview on Crimewatch with Detective Chief Superintendent Matt Bradford. The seizure of £500m worth of

fake designer goods in Manchester, an operation involving the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit led to national coverage. The sentencing of a man for kidnap and rape was covered in the Mirror and Sun, as well as in regional papers and the appeal for witnesses to a sexual assault was covered in My London. Also covered in My London was an 18-month old report into a survey into inclusivity in City of London Police, which was based on some comments made during the survey, rather than on the overall findings. The City of London Police statement was reflected in a summarised form at the end of the article. Police Dog Elvis upstaged his handler PC Colin Nash across the national media when they won in the 'Rising Star' category in the inaugural Thin Blue Paw awards.

Contact [Amanda Malyon](#)

Community & Children's Services

World Mental Health Day

10 October is World Mental Health day and a good time to remember the City Corporation's vision that 'everyone will enjoy good mental health in the City'. The Public Health Team will be promoting several national campaigns such as [NHS Every Mind Matter](#) and [Five to Thrive](#), as well as supporting voluntary and charitable sector events like [Never Alone LDN](#). It is important residents, workers and visitors know it is ok not to be ok and that help is at hand on the [City of London website](#). The City Corporation also offers a range of mental health support services through the Dragon Cafe at Shoe Lane Library, the City Wellbeing Centre on Middlesex Street and City Advice (the latter being particularly important as the furlough scheme ended in September). Members are encouraged to promote the above resources. The Public Health Team would also like to share this helpful [Councillors' guide to mental health](#).

Contact [Claire Giraud](#)

Anti-Slavery Awareness Day

To mark Anti-Slavery Awareness Day on 18 October, the City Corporation's Modern Slavery Forum are hosting an insight hour to promote support services, launch the modern slavery referral pathway and raise awareness of the police initiative, Operation Innerste. If Members would like to attend please contact Ayesha Fordham.

Contact [Ayesha Fordham](#)

Summer in Aldgate

The Summer in Aldgate exhibition (25 June - 9 July) celebrated the community resilience, work and creativity that has taken place over the past year. 25 sites across Aldgate and the City hosted large scale lanterns and other artworks all produced by City residents and members of the wider City community.

@Home Magazine

The third edition of [@Home magazine](#) for City of London estate residents was distributed digitally to residents across all 14 estates in June, with paper copies provided for all sheltered residents.

Contact [Emily Grant](#)

LSO Performance

On 31 July, Barbican Library hosted a free performance given by a trio of London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) string players. An enthusiastic audience of adults and children enjoyed a mix of classical pieces as well as some contemporary works.

Contact [Richard Jones](#)

City Youth Forum

Our Young Members and the City Youth Forum successfully launched their first Healthy Living Week this Summer. Events included H2Only - a day-long challenge to drink only water, a special Bags of Taste cookery class and an action-packed day of fun fitness activities.

Contact [Ryan Jones](#)

City of London Primary Academy Islington and Housing Project

The City of London Primary Academy Islington, one of the 10 academies now sponsored by the City Corporation, started the academic year on its permanent site just north of the Golden Lane Estate. The primary school is one of three primary schools in the City of London Academies Trust all judged Outstanding by Ofsted. As part of the housing element of the project, 66 social housing units will be completed later next year.

Contact [Gerald Mehrtens](#)

City of London Academies and Schools

Creative Skills Summer Workshop

As part of the one of the Culture and Commerce Taskforce projects, a creative skills event was proposed to respond to challenges facing young people leaving school seeking employment in the post-pandemic landscape, and reminding them of the range of opportunities and pathways into creative sector jobs. A group of nine young people from seven schools met from 23-27 August for a summer workshop to develop a resource that addresses the identified challenges. This project, led by the Education Strategy

Unit and Culture Mile Learning focused on closing the gap through the development of a targeted, simple cocreated resource. The young people were split into two groups and worked on creating campaigns, using resources, projects, events and more to help with the problem. This led to them presenting their work at the end of the week to members of the Education Strategy Unit and Culture Mile Learning, who will continue to work with these young people moving forward, as they use the findings and their ideas to see how they can implement this within the work they are already doing.

Contact [Catherine McGovern](#)

City of London School (CLS)

City of London School has raised over £82,000 for charity Switchback. In 2019, Switchback, a charity focussed on enabling young men to find their way out of the justice system, was voted by the pupils to be the charity that we would focus our fundraising efforts on for the year. Although some of the larger fundraising events we usually hold sadly couldn't happen, our pupils and staff were not deterred and instead came up with some brilliantly creative ways to fundraise. These included our very own 'CLS Bake Off', a 24-hour sponsored row, a 13-mile sponsored walk, climbing the equivalent of Snowdon, virtual talks, amongst many other great initiatives. We are extremely grateful to our pupils, parents, and staff for making this possible. The new academic year saw the opening of a brand-new pupil café on the south side of the School, taking in marvellous views over Tate Modern. The café, which will serve food and drink throughout the school day (including at break and lunch time, and for Sixth Form students during their study periods), is already proving hugely popular with pupils and staff alike.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#)

City of London Freemen's School

Despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, students at the City of London Freemen's School once again received outstanding GCSE and A Level results. 45% of all GCSE grades were graded 9 and 72% of grades achieved were 8 or 9. 95% of all A Level grades achieved were A*- B and the percentage of A* grades awarded (49%) continues to be the one of the highest on record. Headmaster, Roland Martin, commented, "Putting to one side the additional challenges students have faced over the last two years, the examination results awarded reflect the combined efforts of students, parents and staff, who should be proud in achieving a superb set of collective results, with some wonderful individual stories. The outstanding results show that Freemen's is a school which continues to develop and extend itself, building on our historical traditions of academic excellence. I am delighted that, despite interruptions over the last two academic years, pupils have done so well." Freemen's students have again enjoyed Oxbridge success this year, with two students holding offers from Oxford for Politics, Philosophy and Economics, whilst four students hold offers from Cambridge for Medicine, Economics, Human Social and Political Sciences and Natural Sciences. Three students have secured places to read Medicine, two Veterinary Medicine and one Dentistry and two students will be reading Architecture. Students leaving for university and beyond do so with the security that their awards are deserved. The fact that they have demonstrated their ability whilst also managing the upheaval caused by the pandemic should be a source of pride to them.

Contact [Sarah Sergeant](#)

Gresham College

[Insect Vector-Borne Diseases](#) - Prof. Chris Whitty

13 October, 6-7pm, attend at Museum of London or watch online live or later. Ticketed, free.

Many of the major diseases of humans are transmitted by insect vectors. Malaria, sleeping sickness, typhus, dengue, Zika and plague are examples where mosquitoes, flies, fleas or ticks transmit. The advantage to the infection is that you can be infected by someone you have never met, often over wide distances. The advantage to humans is that we can act on the insect vector and break the cycle of transmission.

[The Maths of Perspective in Art](#) - Prof. Sarah Hart

18 October, 1-2pm, attend at Museum of London or watch online live or later. Ticketed, free.

The Italian architect Filippo Brunelleschi, designer of the dome of Florence Cathedral, is also known for developing the rules of linear perspective. In a famous experiment, viewers looked alternately from a vantage point at his perspective painting of the Florence Baptistery, and then the real building, to appreciate the realism made possible by the technique. This lecture explores the maths of perspective, including modern examples like televised sports where sponsors paint their logos so they look right on camera.

[Shakespeare, Race & Performance](#) - Prof. Farah Karim-Cooper

19 October, 6-7pm, attend at Museum of London or watch online live or later. Ticketed, free.

How do Shakespeare's familiar plays Othello and Romeo and Juliet reflect the early modern preoccupation with race and emerging concepts of colour-based racism? How do these ideas play out in early modern as well as in contemporary performance?

[How the Financial System Works](#) - Prof. Alex Edmans

26 October, 6-7pm, attend at Museum of London or watch online live or later. Ticketed, free.

This lecture will explore our financial system. Why do banks exist, and what do they do with the money that savers lend to them? We'll explore what risks they face and how they can go bust – even if they make completely safe investments. How does the stock market work – what happens when you trade shares, and why do some companies raise money on the stock market and others don't? Can ordinary citizens influence how the money they save is used?

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

Barbican Centre

Barbican Renewal

The City of London Corporation has launched its search for a design team to develop and deliver plans for a major renewal of the Barbican Centre. Originally opened in 1982, the Barbican is approaching its 40th birthday, and there is the opportunity to mark this milestone with a vision that enables the building to meet the needs of 21st century artists, audiences and communities. The initial brief allows for the Barbican Centre to be considered in its entirety – from upgrading venues and transforming underused areas into new flexible spaces, to improving the welcome, navigating and wayfinding. Improving the building's environmental performance and embedding digital technology to enable the Barbican to connect with a global audience is also a major focus.

Can We Talk About Power?

Can We Talk About Power?, an online programme of events exploring the power of power, took place between 27 and 30 September. Developed as a collaboration between cultural thinker and researcher Suzanne Alleyne, the Barbican's public programming team, and Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Canada, the project was an invitation to join a series of five online conversations over four days. Featuring an exciting group of poets, scientists, writers, artists and thinkers, the programme encouraged people to think about how power shapes our everyday interactions, and why that matters.

Noguchi opens in Barbican Art Gallery

Barbican Art Gallery's major new exhibition *Noguchi* opened on 30 September. One of the most experimental and important artists of the 20th century, Barbican Art Gallery is pleased to stage the first European touring retrospective of Isamu Noguchi's work in 20 years. Retracing the evolution of Noguchi's kaleidoscopic career over six decades across sculpture, architecture, dance and design, the exhibition celebrates the artist's inventive and risk-taking approach to sculpture as a living environment.

Contact [John Kelly](#)

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Guildhall School of Music & Drama announces its Autumn 2021 season

Guildhall School's upcoming events season features concerts, plays, opera and jazz, all open to the public in-person as well as broadcast online after the event. Highlights include this year's Guildhall Jazz Festival presented in association with the EFG London Jazz Festival; Guildhall Symphony Orchestra and Chorus performing an all-Russian programme with pianist Gabriele Strata; and the Plus-Minus Ensemble and Guildhall School musicians joining forces for a concert as part of the Festival of Laurence Crane. In the Opera Department the 200th anniversary of the birth of Pauline Viardot will be celebrated by fulfilling her wish of fully orchestrating her chamber opera *Cendrillon*, to be performed as part of a double-bill alongside *Le docteur Miracle*. Whilst, the Drama Department will present three contrasting plays: Julius Caesar, Emilia and Anna Karenina. Full events listings can be found on the Guildhall School [events pages](#).

Guildhall School partners with School of Sexuality Education

Students and staff within Guildhall School's Acting programme will embark on a bespoke programme of workshops and conversations about consent, sexual violence, and bystander intervention. Delivered in partnership with the award-winning School of Sexuality Education, the workshops are part of a wider programme of training and reflection undertaken by the Drama Department since July 2020. They aim to embed progressive practice in the School's acting training and prioritises inclusivity in all areas.

Guildhall School of Music & Drama granted £637,000 of Leverhulme Arts Scholarships

Guildhall School has been granted £637,000 of Leverhulme Arts Scholarships over the next three years by the Leverhulme Trust. This includes major scholarship support for undergraduate and postgraduate musicians, as well as for children and young people under the age of 18 studying with Guildhall Young Artists, including Junior Guildhall and Centre for Young Musicians. Guildhall School's grant is the second largest of the 57 specialist arts institutions funded by the Leverhulme Trust and comes in addition to Leverhulme research grants made to the School.

Guildhall School announces new online centre for under 18s

Guildhall Young Artists Online [webpage](#) is a new online centre which will offer 1:1 music tuition and a selection of courses throughout the year specially tailored for 8–18 year olds. The courses are led by staff from either Junior Guildhall, Centres for Young Musicians or Guildhall School, enabling young musicians to access quality training in a fun and supportive environment. Courses will be added as the year progresses.

Contact [Rebecca Driver](#), Rebecca Driver Media Relations
Contact [Jo Hutchinson](#), Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre (SBREC)

Supporting start-ups and SMEs

The Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre continues to be very busy supporting start-ups and SMEs across London and the UK. September saw the launch of our new app, enabling Centre members to access all our services and contact us on the move. Centre members can now access powerful research resources on their mobile device enabling them to make swift, informed decisions. It is free to download through Google Play Store and Apple Store. During our successful SME Strategy Focus Groups held earlier this year, many participants suggested they would like the City Corporation to hold more networking events enabling them to meet other business owners in the City. We are therefore holding a networking event on 25 November, with pop-up shops from local businesses, live speakers and refreshments. This event is to thank all the SMEs and freelancers that took time to participate in the focus groups and to show that we are there to support them. Our varied [programme of events](#) continues apace with webinars in October including "How to research Import and Export" and to reflect October being Cyber Awareness Month 'Simple cyber steps to secure your business' delivered by the Police Digital Security Centre. Our outreach continues with training sessions for entrepreneurs supported by Enterprise Exchange and Islington Adult Community Learning.

Contact [Esther Greenwood](#)

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

New Opening Arrangements

LMA is delighted to announce that from Monday 4 October researchers will be able to visit without pre-booking a place. We have been open on a restricted basis for six of the last 18 months and have been fully booked throughout. We are now taking the next step to opening more fully whilst retaining a safe environment within our spacious well-ventilated public rooms. Our opening hours will be Monday to Thursday, 10am-4pm. We intend to be open on this basis until 23 December. There will be no two-week annual closure this year. We know there is a considerable pent up demand to view archives and we expect to be very busy during October and November. Although researchers will be able to order documents on the day, we are strongly encouraging them to order documents in advance online so we can provide safe access to as many people as possible to see original documents in the Archive Study Area; the online ordering system will be enabled 29 September. We are also opening the Information Area library, public computers, microfilms, map area and Mediatheque. We will keep these arrangements under review and welcome any feedback. Further details are available on the [LMA pages](#) of the City of London website.

Contact [Tim Harris](#) or [Charlotte Scott](#)

Guildhall Library

Online Events Programme

Guildhall Library's [online events programme](#) continues to pull in large audiences: Greek Myths and Legends, 365 attendees; A Virtual Tour of St Paul's Cathedral, 377 attendees; The Great Fire, 372 attendees; and Now We are Five – City Bridges, 341 attendees. Our focus on Georgian London to mark the 200th anniversary of the coronation of King George IV and the death of Queen Caroline has proved popular. Talks on Queen Caroline pulled in 328 attendees and Dining with the Georgians – More than Just Buns, 331. A Virtual Tour of the River Thames in 1749, was particularly successful attracting 453 attendees and received glowing feedback including: 'an absolutely riveting presentation, totally gripping' and 'the BEST online talk I have ever attended'. August saw the launch of our [online exhibition](#) chronicling Queen Caroline's extraordinary life, which showcases images from Guildhall Art Gallery and London Metropolitan Archives as well as Guildhall Library collections. The exhibition highlights the inequalities that women, even as elevated as the Queen, suffered and how she became a figurehead for the growing Radical movement that demanded political reform and opposed the unpopular king. Upcoming events for October bookable [online](#) include:

- 7 October: A Mudlark's Treasures, 2pm
- 12 October: People of The Past: Let the Bones Do the Talking, 2pm
- 14 October: Roman Conquests: Britain, 2pm
- 18 October: London's Villages: Bloomsbury, 2pm
- 20 October: Antony Gormley and The New Face of Tradition, 2pm
- 27 October Will Power: Dick Whittington's Legacy, 2pm

Contact [Isabelle Chevallot](#)

In the News

- Lord Mayor William Russell wrote in [City AM](#) on the importance of tackling climate change. He highlighted the City's green finance expertise and its role in financing the transition to net zero.
- Two weeks of planned protests by Extinction Rebellion saw protesters demonstrate at Guildhall. There was coverage in over 100 publications including [Reuters](#), [This is Money](#) and [Yahoo News](#). [Time Out Magazine](#), [i News](#) and [Evening Standard](#).
- [The Londonist](#) wrote about the 'Picture the City' competition launched by the City of London Corporation, which received around 2,000 entries taken within the Square Mile.
- Chair of the City Corporation's Barbican Centre Board Tom Sleigh was quoted in extensive coverage of the launch of an international competition for a design team to develop and deliver plans for a major renewal of the centre. The story featured in [Evening Standard](#), [City AM](#), [e-architect](#), [Architects' Newspaper](#), [Architects' Journal](#), [Building](#), [Building Design](#), [Construction Enquirer](#), [Construction News](#), [Conference News](#) and [Property Week](#) (£).
- Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness was quoted in an article in [The Guardian](#) about the return of office workers and an increase of Tube journeys after the pandemic. Similar stories featuring the Policy Chair appeared in the [FT](#) (£), [Evening Standard](#) and [Property Week](#) (£).
- The [Daily Telegraph](#) [viewable internally] reported on comments from James Thomson, Chairman of the City of London Police Authority Board, urging online platforms to take a legal responsibility to remove and prevent fraudulent activity on their websites. Widespread further coverage was received in over 200 outlets including the [Independent](#), [Daily Mail](#) and [Yahoo Finance](#).
- Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee Alastair Moss was quoted in [PBC Today](#) and [Construction Review Online](#) in a story about planning permission being granted for two schemes at a site on Fetter Lane, near Chancery Lane. Also in [Property Week](#) (£) and [Construction Enquirer](#).
- Lord Mayor William Russell wrote in [City AM](#) about the close relationship between the UK and USA, ahead of the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.
- Widespread coverage mentioning a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor to celebrate the UK-India Economic Partnership appeared in the [Economic Times](#), [Deccan Herald](#), [The Week](#), [Asian Lite](#) and [Financial Express](#).
- Port Health and Environmental Services Committee Chairman Keith Bottomley was quoted in [City Matters](#), [London Loves Business](#) and [LocalGov](#) after proposals for new powers to tackle non-traffic air pollution in the Square Mile, drawn up by the City Corporation and London Councils, were debated in the House of Lords.
- [Derry Now](#), [Belfast Newsletter](#), [Derry Daily](#) mentioned the Lord Mayor and City Corporation in relation to a visit to London by the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council. There was also widespread coverage, including in the [Evening Standard](#), [Daily Mail](#), [ITV](#) and [Evening Standard](#) of an event held at Guildhall attended by Boris Johnson to mark 100 years since the foundation of Northern Ireland
- The City Corporation was mentioned in [Business Standard](#), [India News Republic](#) and the [Tribune India](#), reporting news that UK and Indian ministers are meeting to discuss next steps in work towards a trade deal.
- [City AM](#), [London Loves Business](#) and [City Matters](#) reported on the City Corporation strengthening its commitment to climate action by signing up to the Race to Zero campaign and UK100 network. Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness was quoted.
- [City AM](#) quoted Lord Mayor William Russell's speech calling on UK financial regulators to focus on innovation, sustainability, openness and competitiveness, delivered at Wednesday's City Dinner at Mansion House. Further coverage in [Capital.com](#).
- Writing ahead of COP26, the UN climate change conference, Lord Mayor William Russell wrote in [City AM](#) about the importance of open trade in green goods and services.