



Statue to Ella Roberta Unveiled

Situated in a flower garden in the borough where she lived, a life-sized Ella stands happy, confident and full of potential, overlooking Lewisham hospital where she was hospitalised 30 times before she died.

Inhaler in hand, sculpted on Ella's tiny body are the clothes she was wearing the day before her final asthma attack, including the shoes she wore to school.

Ella developed severe asthma shortly before her 7th birthday. She was admitted into intensive care 5 times. Air pollution caused her to stop breathing and at just 9 years old, the same age and height as my daughter is now, she died.

It was deeply moving to attend the unveiling of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah's statue in South East London. It was a warm and bright, sunny day which reflected what we heard of Ella's spirit. The atmosphere was one of celebration, love and strength in collective determination to continue to raise awareness about the dangers of toxic air.

Her mother, Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah CBE, invited clean air campaigners. This is a lady who recusitated her own daughter. I took the long journey into South East London without hesitation.

I felt small in the presence of Clean Air Champions Rosamund, Sir Sadiq Khan, and Prof Sir Stephen Holgate CBE, also from Hampshire, alongside Ella's incredible brother and sister. Witnessing the speeches, songs, and powerful poems was deeply moving. Standing behind Sadiq and Stephen, an embrace highlighted to me the profound respect they share with Rosamund, a bond undoubtedly shaped by over a decade of grief and relentless battles.

Rosamund's work started a movement. It inspires others like me and there is no doubt in my mind that she is improving and saving lives. As a mother, I cannot imagine the strength it takes to stand beside your daughter in this way. But steadfast and strong, with pride and no doubt pain, Ella's devoted mum finished a powerful afternoon by saying "she'll be here forever now".

Nathalie. 4th April 2025