



CELEBRATING THE CLUB'S HERITAGE

On the weekend of June 23-25 the club hosted a celebration of our unique heritage that was centred around a fabulous reworking of a play written by lifelong fan Matthew Couper, seen pictured here (left) with Director, Mark Stevenson. Our beloved wombles Wandle and Haydon couldn't resist getting in on the action!



"A Fans' Club: Birth of a Phoenix" was a huge success, with those in attendance leaving educated and full of memories. Some even managed to see a cameo from our midfielder Morgan Williams (who thankfully didn't break a leg!)

Williams was a natural: "I thought I did alright, and it was amazing to see the actors show in just an hour how far the Club has progressed and how it all started again. It makes the Club's amazing journey sink in and shows how far we've come."

Our Managing Director, John Lynch, said: "The play produced an unexpected response - there were actual tears at the end of every performance, revisiting the extreme emotions we all went through 20-plus years ago. The feedback (we had) on social media speaks for itself - 'Five stars just doesn't do it justice!'. The cameo appearance by Morgan Williams, one of our younger players, as Sean Fox (former Treasurer for WISA), was applauded by all."

The public saw a culmination of hard work that had been in the planning for many months, so it was a great to see many people attend. "It once again revealed the DNA of our club, it's amazing what fan volunteers can achieve when we all come together." John added.

The weekend also included the unveiling of fantastic new artwork - 'The Greatest Team' - and the launch of the 'Womble Till I Die' book by Niall Couper - chronicling our history from 1889. The book is available now through the club, and we hope to have news of the artwork soon, as to how you can get your hands on it.



As well as showcasing the football side of what we do, there were also lovely talks from guest speakers. On the Saturday afternoon we had a talk by Alan Blower on the history of sports on Wimbledon Common, and then Mick Taylor on the history of sports along the River Wandle.

Wimbledon supporter and season ticket holder, Anita Gibbons, said: "It's great to be back at Plough Lane and to be celebrating with a new book that chronicles the story all the way back here. I started going to Wimbledon games when we were at Selhurst Park and my son was mad on football, so I got a season ticket to come along with him. We've been a part of the journey ever since and some of our favourite memories are contained in this book."

On the opposite page you will see a timetable of events that are happening for the Merton Heritage Discovery Day. This is a great opportunity to find out all about our locality and its amazing past, with events, exhibits, and talks by experts. Please, if you can, do come along - you may also spot a Womble in the wild!



MERTON COUNCIL

Heritage Discovery Day: Saturday 19 August 2023. Explore Merton's fascinating history.

Morden Library, 10.30am – 4.30pm. www.merton.gov.uk/heritage

Guided Walks:

Morden Walk & Talk: Starts at the picnic area near the stable block, Morden Hall Park
10.30 – 11.30: Informal walk in the Morden area, ending at the Discovery Day event, Civic Centre

People, Places and Production: Morden Hall Park and the industries of the River Wandle.
2.00 – 3.00: This circuit walk starts from the Merton Civic Centre forecourt and is led by John Sheridan of Wandle Industrial Museum.

Merton Civic Centre Forecourt & Foyer: Meet the Wombles (Morning only)

Your chance to meet Wandle and Haydon, club mascots for Wimbledon FC and AFC Wimbledon

Metronome Café, Crown Lane, Morden:

10.00 – 3.00: The Changing Face of the High Street (A "There's More to Morden" photo display)

ALL 3 LIBRARY FLOORS & MEZZANINE FLOOR (near Council chamber):

10.30 – 4.30: Stalls from heritage, sports, arts, health and community groups.
The Merton Heritage Quiz (question panels on all floors)

Civic Centre foyer:

10.30 – 4.00: Stalls (Wimbledon in Sporting History/ Dons Local Action Group), plus screenings of "Common Ground: Wimbledon Common in sporting history" & "Wimbledon F C" Lego film
1.00 – 4.00: A unique chance for a selfie with veteran players from Wimbledon F C

Morden Library: Ground floor - Children's Activities (Ages 6 and upwards)

11 to 12.00 Block printing session for children (run by Wandle Industrial Museum)
& 1.00 to 3.00 Learn about the art of block printing textiles as used by Morris & Co and Liberty's.
1.30 – 3.30: Heritage hunt, colouring competition, brass rubbing and dressing up.

Merton Council Chamber (Accessed via stairs in Civic Centre foyer or Library 1st floor):

Local History Talks:

10.45 – 11.10: Merton Priory on Minecraft. (John Hawks, Merton Priory Trust)
11.30 – 11.45: Disabled Workers at Morris & Co. (Portia Dadley, Made in Merton)
12.00 – 12.30: Scandal!: The Work of Journalist W T Stead (Richard Smart, Salvation Army)
1.00 – 1.30: Zeppelin over Motspur Park. (Toby Ewin, Friends of West Barnes Library)
2.00 – 2.35: Redskin Village: Memories of Phipps Bridge (William Dedman)
3.00 – 3.30: Grave Matters in Morden (Sarah Gould, Merton Heritage Service)
3.50 – 4.20: Mitcham Cricket Green – The Inside Story (Tony Burton, Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage)

Second Floor: Stalls and Exhibitions

- History Through the Lens: Mitcham Camera Club Display
- Childhood Memories of Merton
- Merton Pioneers

Please note: The main event, stalls, children's crafts and displays are open to all - however our talks, films and football photo opportunities must be **pre-booked**.

Bookings: Tel. 020 8545 3239/ 4040 or visit www.mertonlibraries.eventbrite.co.uk