



THE WTID GATES ARE BACK HOME

Chris Hutchinson explains how the Club has been reunited with a slice of our storied history.

The WTID gates once allowed supporters access to the old Plough Lane stadium, but eventually, they were used to keep us out, permanently. In an act of defiance, a mystery person sprayed the immortal letters WTID! Womble Till I Die!

There's a long story behind how the gates were saved and stored. And how after many years, with input from many people, they were returned on 5 May 2022, by Paul Strank Roofing, home to Plough Lane. It was now the turn of WiSH to play its part in this story.

Rumours of the WTID graffiti being painted over were quickly confirmed, and the work ahead evident.

August 2022 saw work commence. Despite being armed with various chemicals and potions aimed at removing the

covering paint without removing graffiti, it turned out that water did the trick! Mick Pugh and I then started to carefully rub the top layer of paint away.



Joined by Mags Hutchinson, we continued to carefully expose the WTID letters, a task which became more painstaking as we entered the winter months.

Finally, the WTID letters were as fully exposed as safely possible. The gates needed to be moved ahead of schedule and are now located in a great spot opposite the old Plough Lane turnstiles and have fantastic protection under cover.

Advice will be taken on how much more work, if any at this stage is needed to control the rust. After residual dust is cleaned, we will add further protection and a storyboard.

The gates represent a great deal about our history to many people and are now back at home for all to see. Hopefully, they can remind us that despite varying opinions, we are all on the same side.

There have been many people involved in protecting, storing, and transporting the gates over many years. I'd like to thank each of them. And huge thanks go to WiSH Volunteers Mick and Mags.

As a lifelong Wimbledon Supporter, I continue to

enjoy the ups and endure the downs. The gates will continue to remind me that no matter what I'm... WTID!

For more information on WiSH, please visit our website wimbledoninsportinghistory.org and check out our Facebook page.



Mick Pugh and Chris Hutchinson with the WTID gates.