

TAKING GOOD CARE OF WIMBLEDON FOOTBALL AND MERTON'S SPORTS HERITAGE

At Wimbledon in Sporting History, our primary aim is to collate, safeguard, list, and create new displays and experiences. These can be physical or virtual, in the wider interest of all interested in sports history.

WiSH is an independent charity working with AFC Wimbledon, Merton/Wandsworth and Kingston Heritage, along with the Heritage Lottery Fund, National Archives, Bark, Digital Works, DTB, DLAG, Foundation and many others to bring "The Greatest Story in Sports" to a worldwide audience.

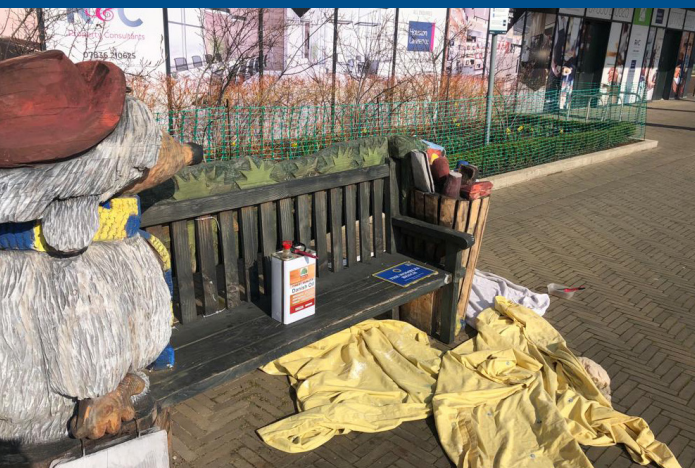
Our larger installations are sustainable and green and are unique within a football



stadium and precinct where the Wombles Bench and Cup Winners Statue are. They are carved from fallen oak which has been replanted and requires ongoing yearly maintenance. Our wood carver Lorraine Botterill was down this past week, repairing, refilling

and painting both of her creations. Following that Chris Hutchinson and Russ Jones from our team of volunteers has been applying coats of Danish oil to protect and preserve them, making sure they remain in pristine condition.

Yesterday, we unveiled the 1930s Mick the Miller greyhound mosaic outside the stadium, the only item that English Heritage wanted preserved, thus fulfilling our promise to them and other stakeholders that it would return to public display. This was only made possible by significant funding from the HLF along with contributions from Galliards, GBGB, and the Mick The Miller Society in Ireland.





The next project of this sort is to create the first-ever installation in the UK to commemorate speedway racing. To keep in line with our reuse and recycle approach the bike will be made from recycled industrial metal, with the figure of the rider once again from a fallen tree that we pay to replant.

Making good use of the things that we find, if you will.

Another partnership between us, Digital Works, the Dons Den, the British Speedway Riders' Association, and once again the majority from the HLF.

Of course, everything comes at a significant monetary

cost which is met in full by WiSH via grants (large and small), crowd funding, retail sales, tour income (of which 80% goes to the club), private sponsors and partner contributions.

The club kindly donates to us the space for the museum, the heritage trail, installations and meeting rooms to facilitate the filming and premiere of those films. This gesture is a contribution in kind from the Club allowing us to put the value and that of all the WiSH volunteers creating a match funding value when we apply for grants.



As mentioned, a lot of this work is done by funding, and if you feel you can contribute to our projects then please do so using the QR code here.

