

Saturday 17 August saw the 10th annual Merton Heritage Day held at Morden Library and once again, Wimbledon in Sporting History were front and centre representing the Dons. A hugely popular and positive free showcase for the Borough's myriad of local groups, the 2024 event was the biggest yet, with 40+ organisations participating and featuring everything from the life of Victorian Journalist Richardson Evans, the story of the Old Rutlishians, textile art and African culture.

And with Merton aiming to be a recognised Borough of Sport, WiSH volunteers Ray and Sharon Armfield brought along three football trophies – our always-popular replica FA Cup, AFC Wimbledon Women's FAWNL Division South East Champions trophy and the newly-won IFA WorldNet Cup won by AFC Wimbledon Supporters Team for the first time in a national tournament.

Our special guests were Steve Allen – physio of the Wimbledon side that won the FA Cup in 1988

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– who showcased his impressive and previously unseen collection of Wembley-related memorabilia and other items from his 17-year association with the Club, which he has kindly loaned to WiSH – and we were also very grateful to AFC Wimbledon Women's Vice Captain Rosie Russell, who was a superb ambassador for the Club, greeting a stream of fans and guests alike with a smile and a selfie opportunity.

There was a steady flow of visitors to the area designated for WiSH, our partners 'Dons Den', where Jon Stevens exhibited his eye-catching display of Wimbledon Dons speedway race jackets and related items helping to raise awareness of their fundraiser to support a statue of legendary rider Ronnie Moore at Plough Lane. Plus Dons Local Action Group (DLAG) whose hardy



volunteers do such an impressive job in the community were well represented by Meena Pabla and our own Peter Jones.

With Wimbledon playing at Bromley with a 12.30pm kick-off, football from Dons supporters was largely outside game times, but there was a steady number of curious locals, fellow stallholders, local councillors, the Deputy Mayor, former Wimbledon FC secretary John Young and even an Olympian, as we were delighted to meet former Commonwealth Gold and Silver medal winner Lorna Boothe MBE. Lorna competed at both the 1976 and 1980 summer games for Great Britain in the 100m hurdles and later became a senior athletics administrator.

We'd like to thank Sarah Gould, Service Manager (Heritage and Local Studies) at the Environment, Civic Pride and Climate Department of Merton Council plus her team for organising and supporting another excellent event to celebrate 30 years of Merton's Heritage Service and we aim to be back again in 2025!



AFC WIMBLEDON - THE GREATEST STORY

- **WE ARE THE ONLY TEAM TO WIN THE AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL FA CUPS IN 1963 & 1988, RESPECTIVELY**
- **WE ARE THE MOST NOMADIC CLUB, WITH 22 DIFFERENT HOME GROUND LOCATIONS**
- **WE ARE THE REAL INVINCIBLES AFTER OUR RECORD 78 GAMES UNBEATEN BETWEEN FEB 03 - DEC 04**
 - **WE HAVE FACED THE MOST OPPONENTS. AN ENORMOUS 781 AND COUNTING...**
- **WE COLLECTED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF POINTS FOR A TEAM WITHOUT GAINING PROMOTION IN 2002/03**
 - **IT ONLY TOOK 9 YEARS FROM REFORMATION AS AFC WIMBLEDON TO A FOOTBALL LEAGUE RETURN**
- **WE HAVE THE FASTEST RISE IN FOOTBALL FROM LEVEL 4 TO LEVEL 1 DURING SEASONS 1982/83-1986/87**
 - **THE FASTEST RISE FROM THE ASHES. FRANCHISED BY THE FA IN MAY 02 (LEVEL 2) TO OUR FIRST MATCH AS AFC WIMBLEDON JULY 2002 (LEVEL 9)**
- **WE ARE THE MOST AWARDED CLUB WITH AN ASTONISHING 85 DIFFERENT TROPHIES**
- **THE ONLY CLUB IN THE WORLD WITH THREE CHARTIS: AFC WIMBLEDON FOUNDATION, DLAC AND WISH**

