

WiSH



Sale launched to help our museum to reopen

A 'huge' volunteer effort has preserved iconic artefacts from Wimbledon's history after the recent flooding, but your help is needed to restore our stadium museum to its former glory.

Visited by thousands of people since the stadium opened – including football fans from around the world – the museum will unfortunately be out of action until the New Year.

However, volunteers at Wimbledon in Sporting History are striving to relaunch the museum as an even 'bigger and brighter' facility for future generations of Wimbledon supporters.

As part of this, WiSH have launched a sale of historical items in the Club Shop – 50 percent off – and with all proceeds donated to the Museum Flood Fund.

Items include the 'Greatest Team' puzzle, smart Wimbledon silk ties, and 'Womble 'Till I Die' pin badges – all offering the potential of early Christmas presents for a fellow Don!

Scan the QR code to access our Club Shop page and snap-up one of the items:



The sale will help to deal with all the costs of revamping the facility, as summed up by WiSH Managing Director John Lynch, who is very positive about relaunching the facility as an even better attraction in the New Year.

"The good news after the flooding is that none of the historical artefacts



were damaged," said John.

"However, it was a huge volunteer effort from Chris Hutchinson and our team – they had to remove everything, carry items up three floors, and wrap everything up to preserve them.

"It's a big challenge now as we are effectively starting from scratch. Jobs include flooring, painting, sanitising, and refitting the cabinets with historical items. We will then have to pass an inspection by the Museums Association."

Assuming everything goes well, John also outlined plans for reopening an attraction that has been visited by football fans from all around the world.

"With a lot of hard work and help from supporters, volunteers and the Club, we believe that the museum can come back bigger and brighter. We are striving to relaunch on the same day as the Batsford Dinner – an event that will bring together Dickie Guy, Ian Cooke and the

whole Wimbledon squad from that magical day when we drew at Leeds United in the FA Cup.

"If anyone can support us by buying one of the items, or by making a donation, it will help to restore the museum. All funds that we raise go straight to stadium heritage projects. Since opening thousands have visited the museum, even with a limited time open on matchdays.

"The museum being open has global appeal for Wimbledon's brand, as shown by the fact that 58 per cent of people who booked stadium tours in the past year were fans from abroad. With an international weekend planned for early next year, the interest in us far exceeds other clubs at our level and the museum helps to show off our unique history to a global audience."

If you can help WiSH as a volunteer or through a donation, please email info@wimbledoninsportinghistory.com

