



## Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

### Annual Open Meeting 29 July 2020 Presentation on the Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Sarah-Jane Holden

The Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators was launched last September.

Two months before the end of our first year we have:

Benefactor x 45

Household x 207

Individual x 137

Making a total of 389. Of which 245 are Founder Friends. At least 600 are now part of The Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons.

To meet several requests the Board has approved two additional categories of membership:

- Patron for a contribution of £1,000
- Corporate for a contribution of £5,000

The Common's Levy ranges from 17 - £60 per household and so pitching the Individual & Family categories at the rate of £30/£40 enables those who do not live within the Levy paying area the opportunity to make an equivalent contribution.

Of the £23,000 raised to date we have been able to contribute £20,000 towards the upgrade of the cycle/pedestrian path along Beverley Brook. Works should have already commenced if not for Covid-19.

The Friends do hold events. However, the Friends is not event driven. There is just one big event the Friends' promote and this is the wild, open, free and safe environment that gives delight and pleasure with each visit.

Saying that, 2021 is the sesquicentenary anniversary year and several events have already been agreed. The All England Club has generously offered us their centre court debenture lounge on Saturday 27 March, Stephen Hammond, MP for Wimbledon, is sponsoring an evening reception and tour on the Terrace at Westminster, the MP for Wandsworth is supporting a cycle ride and on Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>, the day before the Act was signed 150 years ago, a sports day will be held celebrating games that have been played on the Commons over those last 150 years.

For all these events Friends will be offered a window to book before tickets are offered to the wider public.

Please contact me through the Rangers Office if you would like to be involved in helping and being part of what will be a fun year.

In closing I would like to thank all those who volunteered to man the FOWPC gazebos over the last x3 weekends. The response was hugely positive.