



Celebrate 150 years of Wimbledon and Putney Commons



**Celebration Games Day
Sunday May 22nd 2022**

9:00am - 5:30pm

**Wimbledon and Putney Commons and
the Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields**

History of Games on the Commons

13th century - Wimbledon Village Riding Stables

Believed to be the oldest recorded riding stables in England. The late Richard Milward MA, a renowned local historian, researched the background of horses in Wimbledon over the years and found that the first recorded stables belonged to the Lord of the Manor, and are detailed in the Estate's accounts of 1236-37.

The stables on their current site, behind the Dog & Fox pub in the High Street, were founded in 1915 by William Kirkpatrick and named Hilcote Stables; William's daughter Jean took over on his retirement and continued to visit the stables until her death in 2005. From 1969, Hilcote Stables was leased to Colin Crawford, and when it came up for sale in 1980 and was bought by the current owner, Carol Andrews, it was renamed Wimbledon Village Stables.

1854-1889 - Wimbledon Cricket Club

Cricket has been played in Merton since mid 17th century. Mitcham CC is the oldest ground in the world. Professional matches are thought to have started on Wimbledon Common in the mid 1800's. The first games were played close to the Windmill using tents as changing rooms. In 1889 the Club moved to Wimbledon Lakeside.

Wimbledon Village Cricket Club played on the Common near Rushmere until the 1980s when maintenance of the wicket became too difficult.

1859-1889 - National Rifle Association

Founded by the 5th Earl Spencer and the Duke of Cambridge

Following the Napoleonic Wars and fearful of a French invasion 'to make certain that soldiers and the public were able to defend themselves; could they shoot, could they shoot straight, could they "shoot the right guys"!

1865 - London Scottish Golf Club

The London Scottish Golf Club is considered the longest continually played-upon course in England. No-one is sure exactly when golf was first played here, but seven holes were picked out in the early 1860s by members of the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers, who were stationed on Wimbledon Common.

A number of the holes, such as long Butt, Running Deer, Blockade and the Long Hole, were originally laid out along the lines of rifle ranges. Old bullets are occasionally still found on parts of the course.

1865 - Wimbledon Rugby Football Club

The Rose and Crown was the club house and changing rooms. In 1871 the Club's captain, recuperating with a broken leg, wrote the first rules of rugby at his home in Wimbledon Village. The first recorded game was against Richmond on Wimbledon Common in 1865.

1868 - Thames Hare and Hounds Club

The Thames Rowing Club wanting to keep fit during the 1867 winter organised a 2.5 mile steeplechase on Wimbledon Common. The first organised cross-country event in Britain. After a series of successful steeplechases and paper chases TH&H was formed.

1883 - Wimbledon Hockey Club

Originally played on a Saturday afternoon by local residents who would go to the Common with a ball and shaved ash sticks and have a mass play around. Pink hats determined what side you were on. Pink and an image of the Windmill form part of their club badge.

The club was founded for the purpose of providing exercise for cricket players during winter. Disagreements led to WHC standardising the rules of the game after centuries of informal play.

1889- Wimbledon Old Centrals Football Club (Wimbledon Football Club)

Old Central School was founded for local boys in 1758 in Camp Road. The boys played 'football' on the Common eventually forming WOCFC. This became WFC in 1905.

In May 2012 AFC Wimbledon was founded. Player trials were held on REMPF. 250 players turned up.

1895- London Scottish Curling Club

Enlarging a disused gravel pit, now the Curling Pond, enabled the famous Scottish winter sport to be played on Wimbledon Common during every frost. The Curling Pond today has an abundance of water snails, smooth newts and whirligig beetles. Another curling pond was situated close to Wimbledon Common Golf Club on Camp Road but has been filled in and is now a car park.

For anyone who would like to find out more about the sporting and other history of Wimbledon and Putney Commons our book is available for purchase at the Friends Tent.

Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Who are the Friends?

The Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons bring together all of those who are connected by a passion for the Commons, for the purposes of collective celebration and fund raising.

Why Support Us?

Every path, heathland, bog, stream, pond and woodland has an incalculable value that requires ongoing investment. Without skilled conservation officers, mounted keepers and our very committed staff, our unique Commons would not be as they are today: safe, clean and preserved. That is why every contribution you make, small and large, is so important.

By becoming a Friend of Wimbledon and Putney Commons, you will be playing a crucial role in preserving, protecting and maintaining this unique and special place.

As a Friend, you will be invited to attend special events that will provide a unique experience of the Commons amongst those who share your passion and commitment.

Membership starts at just £30 per year.

For full details on membership including how to sign up visit our website (wpcc.org.uk) or click the QR code on the right



Full details of today's events are available on the last page of this programme

Programme of Events

All events at the Windmill/Ranger's office unless otherwise noted
(The programme is subject to change and all timings are approximate)

09:00	Opening ceremony - at the Arena
09.30 -11.00	Running: 10 km run - Dash for the Splash, open to all, organised by Thames Hare and Hounds
09.30-17.00	Golf: Children's golf putting, open to all, organised by Wimbledon Common Golf Club
09.30 -16.00	Walking: Historical games treasure hunt family walk and a self guided mindfulness walk, open to all, organised by Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons
11.15 -11.45	Flyball: Demonstration by the SW19 Swifts
11.00 -12.30	Cycling: Putney to the Windmill, open to all, organised by Wandsworth Cycling Campaign
12.00 -14.00	Lacrosse: Match - West London vs Spencer Lacrosse Clubs - Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields
12.00 -12.30	Horse Riding: Demonstration by the Wimbledon Village Stables
12.45 -13.45	Stoolball: Match, organised by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Staff
13.00-18.30	Cricket: Match, Putney Cricket Club vs Bricklayers Arms - Putney Lower Common and Roehampton CC v Wandsworth Cowboys - Putney Heath by the Telegraph pub
13.45 -14.15	Traditional Morris Dancing: Performance by Greensleves
14.15 -15.15	Football: Penalty shoot-out and pick up junior kick about with Haydon the mascot, open to all, organised by AFC Wimbledon
15.15 -16.30	Rugby: Demonstration of girls rugby, walking rugby and inclusive rugby, organised by Wimbledon Rugby Football Club
16.30 - 17.00	Tug of War: Open to all, organised by FIT8
17.00	Closing ceremony

The Arena is close to the Rangers Office where the Friends Tent is located. Other tents together with food and drink vans are also situated there.

Prizes

For the Games Day, prizes will be awarded for the Family Treasure Hunt. Completed entry forms should be returned to the Friends Tent near the Rangers Office by 4pm.

All correct entries will be entered into a draw and the winners will be selected at random.

ALL ENTRIES FOR THE FAMILY TREASURE HUNT AND THE MINDFULNESS WALK WILL RECEIVE A PIN BADGE (ADULTS) OR STICKER (CHILDREN) *subject to availability*

The two prizes are

£150 voucher for the Crooked Billet
Bottomless Prosecco Brunch for 2 at Hemingways

Games Day Treasure Hunt

There are eight boards at various locations around the Common. Each location has a sporting connection.

Their locations are marked on the map overleaf where the approximate location of the board is at the bottom right hand corner of the number square.

The boards can be visited in any order.

At each one you will find some information about the site, the name of a person connected with the sport and a letter. Enter both into the appropriate box below.

When you have all eight, rearrange the letters to make the name of another sport.

COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE FRIENDS TENT BY 4PM IF YOU WISH TO BE ENTERED INTO THE PRIZE DRAW

1	CURLING
Name:	Letter:

2	RUGBY
Name:	Letter:

3	RIFLE SHOOTING
Name:	Letter:

4	GOLF
Name:	Letter:

5	FOOTBALL
Name:	Letter:

6	TENNIS
Name:	Letter:

7	RUNNING
Name:	Letter:

8	HOCKEY
Name:	Letter:

The other sport is: _____

Name: _____

Contact email address _____

*We will only use your contact details to inform you if you have won a prize.
If you would like to sign up to receive the Commons' eNewsletter, please tick the box.*

Games Day Treasure Hunt Map



Wimbledon and Putney Commons



Games Day Wellness Trail

A gentle 2 hour self-guided walk through some of the quieter areas of the Commons. Time to refresh your body and mind in our wonderful environment. The walk is mapped out on the map on the next page.

Starting at the Windmill walk to the Hookhamslade Pond. This small pond is a somewhat hidden delight of wildlife and water birds. Sit for a while on one of the three benches around the pond to watch nature at work. Take long slow breaths and feel the calmness. Concentrate on your surroundings.

When ready continue on your walk to find Caesar's Well. This natural spring has supplied local residents with water for centuries. The water rises from 5 metres underground and has never run dry. Think about the importance of water throughout time and remember the work of Sir Henry Peek whose circle of granite stones around the well reflects the work of Peek in keeping the Commons open and unenclosed for all for exercise and recreation.

From here you can now follow the stream down through the tress to Beverley Brook. The path is very peaceful and you can concentrate on the trees and water. There are several fallen trunks to step over so, if you want an easier route, walk down Robin Hood Ride instead.

Walking along the Beverley Brook, take your time and think about how you are feeling. Watch out for the heron who lives here.

Soon you reach the Richardson Evans playing fields where you can stop to watch the Games Day Lacrosse matches between 12 and 2pm.

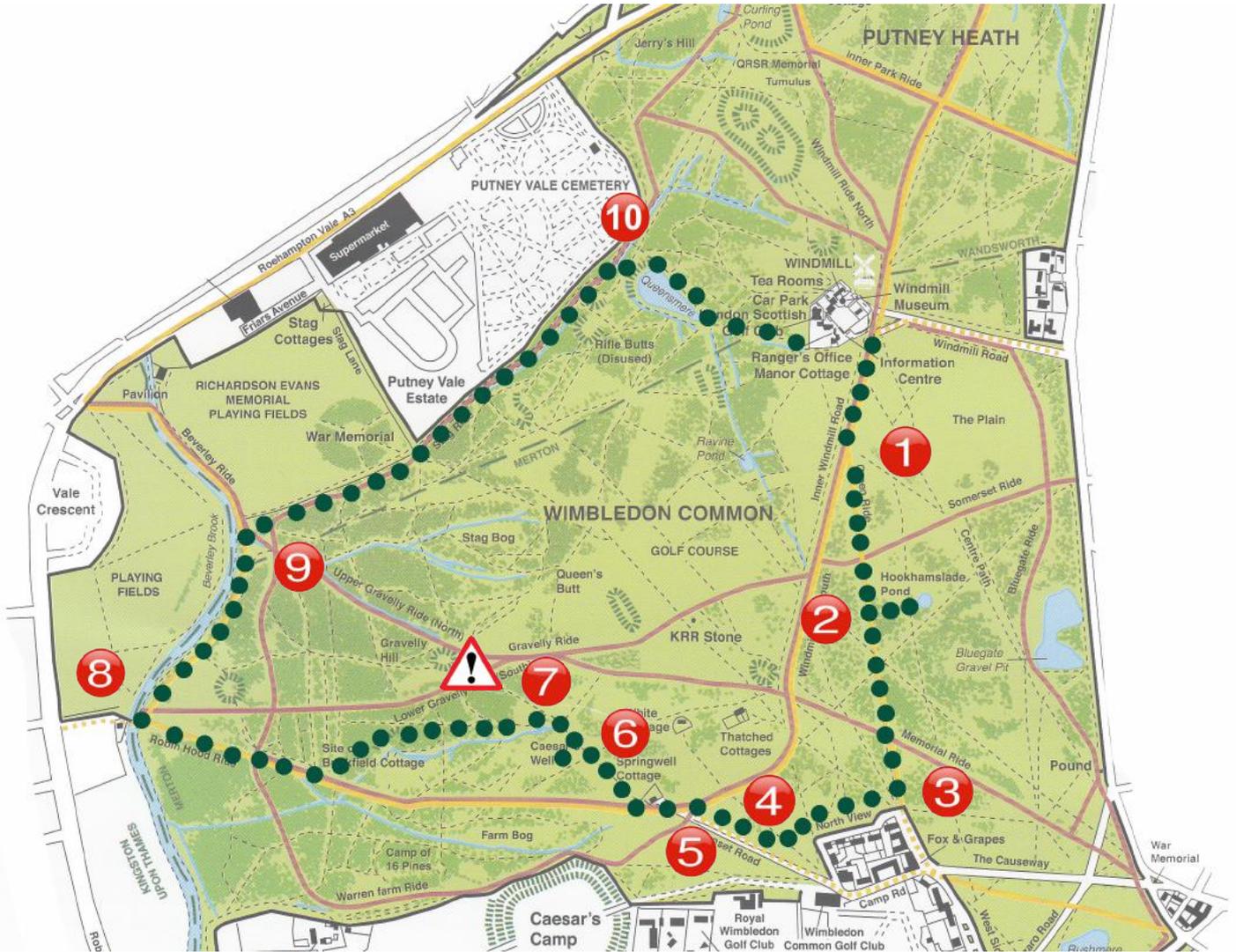
Continue along Stag Ride and turn right to reach Queensmere Pond. This is a very popular part of the Commons so may well be busier. Take time to sit and watch people strolling, children playing and the peaceful glide of the swans with their cygnets.

From here a fairly short uphill walk will bring you back to the Windmill hopefully refreshed and restored.

If you wish, play the Mindful Walk Bingo on route and return it to the Friends Tent by 4pm to collect a special 150 year celebration pin badge or sticker (subject to availability).



Games Day Wellness Trail Map



1

2

3

4

5

6



7

8

9

10



The route should be fairly easy to follow using the images for guidance.

 When leaving Caesar's Well the path indicated is narrow, has logs to climb over and can be muddy. If in any doubt retrace your steps to the car park (5) and turn right down the main path to reach the path along Beverley Brook.

If you do continue on the narrow path just keep heading downhill keeping the narrow brook on your left. You need to reach the path along Beverley Brook

MINDFUL WALK BINGO

Notice 5 different trees.	How has your mood shifted?	Notice 5 blue things you see	Take three deep breaths	Notice 1 thing you taste
Notice 4 things you hear	Notice 3 things you feel	Notice 3 yellow things you see	Notice where your mind is right now.	Notice two things you smell
Notice the bottom of your feet.	Notice 4 green things you see		Where are your thoughts right now?	Notice the texture of the grass
What just distracted you?	Notice 4 birds.	Notice three people out walking.	Notice the different textures of the path.	Notice one dog.
Notice the breeze on your face	Notice the depth of your breath right now.	How did you come back?	What is the emotion you feel right now?	Notice 3 different types of flowers.

Bring this completed form back to the Friends Tent by 4pm to collect a special 150 year celebration pin badge or sticker (subject to availability).

If you would like to receive our newsletter please complete the details below.

Name: _____

Contact email address _____

'Art on the Commons' Competition

As part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations, the Conservators launched a competition for the best images of the Commons.

Your image can be of any medium - photography, sketch, painting or any other form you wish - and can be of anything at all - flowers or insects, wide sweeping vistas down the golf fairways, the iconic Windmill or visitors enjoying the Commons for one of our core reasons for being - exercise and recreation including the 150 Year Games Day.

To qualify, your entry must be a picture/image of either Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath or Putney Lower Common and should be taken in the current month of the competition - Our aim is to capture the essence of the Commons over the course of the year and we hope many will feature in a celebration book to be published later in 2022.

Why not join in and be in with the chance of winning some amazing prizes!

You can enter up to three images each month, and there will be monthly prizes for the best picture submitted as judged by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, with an overall winner chosen at the end of the twelve months.

All pictures entered will be included in a gallery on our website.

For more information visit our website or scan the QR code.



Sponsors

WPCC is very grateful for all of the sponsorship we have received. This support helps us keep the Commons open for all and we hope that you, in turn, will support them.

The Games Day itself has been sponsored by **CAPPAGH**.

The monthly prizes for our Art on the Commons competition have been very generously provided by many businesses local to the Commons. In alphabetical order these are:

Cent Anni

The Dog and Fox

The Fire Stables

Friarwood wine merchants

The Hand in Hand

Light on the Common

Lighthouse

Mason St Cassien

Megans

Neom

Pet Pavilion

Provenance Butchers

The Telegraph Pub

Vallebona

Prizes have also been provided for earlier events. These include **Postmark** and **Wimbledon Books**.



MAP OF WIMBLEDON AND PUTNEY COMMONS

Registered Charity No. 303167

Norman Plastow MBE FRIBA

Cricket Match
Roehampton
Cricket Club v
Wandsworth

Cricket Match
Putney Cricket
Club v
Bricklayers

Lacrosse
Match West
London v
Spencer

Windmill/Ranger's
Office Location for
all events unless
otherwise noted



KEY

- Cycle routes with pedestrian priority
- Horse rides
- Cycle paths / tarmac
- Water
- Borough Boundaries

