

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators
Manor Cottage
Wimbledon Common
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Chief Executive: Simon Lee



MEDIA RELEASE

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

July 2016 Update

Wimbledon Windmill – Heritage Lottery Fund

Works by specialist millwrights Owsworth IJP to restore the Windmill (as part of the successful Heritage Lottery Fund project) are well underway. Scaffolding has been erected allowing painting and repair to the wooden boards on the ‘cap’ to begin. Following these works, the semi-permeable membrane beneath the black wooden tower will be replaced, thereby preventing further water ingress to the first floor ceiling of the structure.

New sails have been fabricated at the company’s Reading depot (see picture below) and it is anticipated that these will be installed during September, weather permitting. Owsworth IJP have, through the Prince’s Trust Young Persons’ Scheme, employed sixteen-year-old Susannah Martin from Wimbledon, on a multi-trade foundation scheme, to assist with the restoration of the sails. Susannah will also be working on site during their installation.

New Sails for the Wimbledon Windmill



Conservators’ Board Meeting – 11th July 2016

1. *Windmill Tearooms*

Following safety concerns with the existing umbrellas, the Board considered and agreed a request from the lessee of the Windmill Tearooms to install two large beige umbrellas on the forecourt area of the Tearooms, each covering approximately four picnic benches. The costs will be met by the lessee.

2. Putney Hospital Site

The Board continues to work with its legal advisors Charles Russell Speechlys on the implementation of the Charity Commission's October 2015 Formal Action Plan. Following the update given by the Chairman at the Annual Open Meeting, the Board at its meeting on 11 July, approved a process for selecting and appointing a surveyor to carry out the retrospective valuation. It is expected that, following a short-listing and interview process, the successful firm will be appointed in during September 2016.

Commons Events

1. BioBlitz Weekend

With the support of our DEFRA Appointed Conservator, the third annual BioBlitz event was held over the weekend of the 25th and 26th June 2016 and once again proved very popular. More than 45 people attended the bat walk and moth trapping session on the Saturday evening, when fortunately the weather held until around 11.00pm, permitting an excellent display by the Daubenton bats. Sunday began with an early morning bird walk, led by resident expert Dave Wills and supported by some 25 people. Summer is not the best season for migratory birds but nonetheless a good number of species was noted, including a Garden Warbler.

Sunday also saw two separate walks, one at 10.30am and another at 2.00pm, with 20/25 people attending each one. The Commons' staff were assisted on these walks by a range of volunteer experts in butterflies, dragon/damselflies, birds, insects and flora.

2. The Commons Open Day

Please come and support our Annual Commons Open Day on Sunday 11th September 2016. This event, organised by the Commons' staff, promises, as always, to be a great family day out. Preparations are well advanced with many stalls already booked. Our regular displays and arena events are organised, including the Birds of Prey, Working Dogs and Horse Riding events. There will be opportunities to meet the Keepers' horses and enjoy tractor rides around the Common.

Putney Lower Common - New Development Landscaping

Landscaping works to restore Common land as part of the New Development at Putney Lower Common have commenced. The former access road from Comondale to the old hospital site has been removed, areas topsoiled and new footpaths have been installed. Planting and further landscaping works are planned for the autumn/winter period.

ENDS

NOTES for Editors - Wimbledon and Putney Commons is a charity managed by the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators. It was established under the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871. The Commons comprise some 1,140 acres across Wimbledon Common, Putney Heath and Putney Lower Common.

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