

## MERTON HERITAGE STRATEGY 2021-25: DEVELOPMENT PLAN – October 2023 Update

The following development plan has been compiled using information supplied by Merton heritage providers including council departments, historic sites, visitor attractions and community groups. It identifies key projects and activities that contributing groups believe will help to fulfil the core objectives of the Merton Heritage Strategy 2021-25. Progress will be monitored and shared twice yearly in May and October. Progress will be shown using a traffic light system

**Red:** Project delayed      **Amber:** Progressing with minor delays      **Green:** On schedule/complete

This is intended to be an evolving plan - whilst activities have been scheduled to take place within the designated five-year period, timings may be subject to change as a result of public health advice, funding and logistical considerations. Projects / activities completed prior to the May 2023 update report are now shown in a simplified table at the end of the document.

<b>OBJECTIVE 1: To raise Merton's profile by increasing public access to the borough's unique and diverse cultural heritage</b>							
Project / Activity:	Expected Benefit:	Start date:	End Date:	Location:	Responsible Group/Officer:	Status R/A/G	Progress feedback from responsible group/officer (Oct '22)
To design and install new information board for the Arts & Crafts bandstand in John Innes Park	Better public awareness of the facilities / history of John Innes Park.	Spring 2021	Spring 2023	John Innes Park, Merton Park	Friends of John Innes Park / John Innes Society Committee		<b>Complete:</b> The final information sign has been installed in John Innes Park by the Council / Idverde giving background to the Arts and Crafts bandstand.
To secure planning permission for and undertake improvements to the Revelstoke Road entrance to Wimbledon Park	Transformation of entrance area to give more positive and uplifting impression to visitors. Additional tree hedging will support greater biodiversity. Joining up the perimeter path and creating a separate area for cars will increase safety and improve the visitor experience for walkers. Murals will engage schools, increasing engagement with local heritage	2021/2	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		Estimates have been obtained for a phased approach. National Grid are providing £5K for the Northern Hedge extension and LBM have matched funding. Progress expected soon.  Progress with TfL and moving to licence officer stage.
To increase the online presence of Merton Heritage Service by expanding the range of online resources (Merton Memories website; Youtube channel and social media posts)	Increased awareness of local heritage; Higher profile for Heritage Service and associated collections;	April 2021	Ongoing	Merton Heritage Centre; Merton Memories; Youtube;	Sarah Gould, LBM (with assistance from LBM Comms, Libraries SMT and Heritage volunteers)		Additional heritage resources have been produced /social media material released re. Windrush 75, South Asian Heritage Month and Black History Month. New Coronation and Borough of Sport animations have been made available via the Merton Memories website.

	Increased collections accessibility and broadening of audience for heritage services.			LBM social media channels			Local history talks and heritage trails (re. Mitcham's Sporting heritage) are also accessible online.
To implement the "Picturing Modern Merton" project – digitising the 1945+ photographic collection for access via the Merton Memories website. Project also to involve the use of digitised material to create displays, school resources, heritage trails and materials for therapeutic reminiscence.	Increased awareness of and engagement with Merton's heritage; Increased profile of and uptake of Merton's heritage services; Opportunities for heritage networking, promotion, support and income generation	April/May 2021	Dec 2024	Merton Heritage Centre; Merton Memories	Sarah Gould, LBM		Volunteers continue to research and catalogue images for addition to the Merton Memories site. Material has been used for photographic exhibitions in Metronome café and will feature on external (parks) displays planned for Ravensbury Park and Wandle Park in 2024.
To plan and implement the Merton Heritage Discovery Day (2023) to showcase the borough's rich history.	Increased awareness of and engagement with Merton's heritage; Increased profile of and uptake of Merton's heritage services; Opportunities for heritage networking, promotion, support and income generation	Event planning started March 2023	19/08/23	Merton Heritage Centre; Merton Memories; Potential for inclusion of community venues	Sarah Gould, LBM		<b>Complete:</b> 32 heritage/community groups and artists (including several newcomers) took part in the event, which was attended by 2500 people. The 2023 programme also included 2 external walks and a photographic display at Metronome café. Feedback from visitors, participants and volunteers was universally positive, with further expressions of interest for 2024.
Develop "New Leaf" project, working with community partners to devise and stage a series of guided walks, talks and photography sessions for adults and school classes. Focused on local parks, green spaces, woodland and the River Wandle, these will raise awareness of the heritage and natural environment of Morden. Project will also feature nature inspired displays and activities linked to climate change and the need for environmental conservation.	Provides opportunities for nature engagement through walking, learning, exploring, art and fun. Promotes active lifestyle, wellbeing and conservation.	March 2024	October 2024	Merton Heritage Centre, Morden Hall Park and LBM parks in the Morden area.	Sarah Gould, LBM. (Working with Morden Library, LBM Parks dept,; National Trust and Mitcham Camera Club.		<b>New addition to plan.</b>
(Clarification of previous entry)  A full programme of in-person talks, visits and research workshops, attendance at Heritage events, and production of our quarterly Bulletin	An increasing knowledge of the Borough's history for members and the general public	01/10/22	30/09/27		Merton Historical Society Committee		Ongoing and on schedule

plus further publications							
Complete Phase 1 of the Chapter House development, including water and drainage connections and an upgraded electricity supply	Provision of a publicly accessible visitor centre and heritage resource	2022 (TBC)	Ongoing	The Chapter House	Merton Priory Trust		The plan for a site drain in the Chapter House garden has been drawn up and the necessary permissions obtained from the National Grid and Historic England (planning permission still awaited). However, the estimated cost has unexpectedly exceeded available funds, meaning further grants must be sought, and completion is now unlikely till spring 2025
Complete Phase 2 of the Chapter House development, creating a fully equipped performance and exhibition area within the remains	Provision of a publicly accessible Arts resource	2022 (TBC)	Ongoing	The Chapter House	Merton Priory Trust		For the above reason, a full programme of arts events and educational/community use will be impossible next year. Meanwhile we shall proceed with the installation of stage lighting and sound equipment funded through a recent CIL grant.
Complete Phase 3 of the Chapter House development by raising funds for and creating a physic garden	Creation of a public amenity and heritage resource	2023/24	Ongoing	The Chapter House	Merton Priory Trust		The Trust hopes to complete groundwork for the garden in 2024, so that planting can be done in 2025; meanwhile the garden area is being tended by volunteers.
Develop new walk "Kitz goes East" about the life of Francis Kitz; dyer, activist, William Morris associate and Wandle workers champion (highlights Clerkenwell and Shoreditch links.)	Educating all ages, boosting interest in local history and the Wandle Trail	2023	2023	Merton	Summerstown182 – Geoff Simmons		No date set yet.
Complete "The People of Wardley Street" oral history project	Celebrates the heritage of the Romany Gypsy and Traveller community in Wandsworth	2021	Ongoing	Wandsworth with potential Merton links	Summerstown182 – Geoff Simmons		Oral history project continues to be stalled but there is still significant interest in this history. The 'Walkin in A Wandsworth Wonderland' Walk scheduled for 21 October 2023 <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/walkin-in-a-wandsworth-wonderland-guided-tour-tickets-678001539857?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/walkin-in-a-wandsworth-wonderland-guided-tour-tickets-678001539857?aff=oddtcreator</a> will feature Romany Gypsy Heritage. It will also be depicted in a planned community mural on The Hop Pole pub in Putney Bridge Road
"Barney's" blue plaque project. The objective is to research and install a plaque at 476 Garratt Lane, commemorating local barber and WW1 veteran, Barnett Jacobs and his popular shop (now Goodfellas) – one of the longest continuously trading premises in the area (1911+)	Helps to capture for posterity, an important aspect of local history, recording the people, places and events familiar to residents of Merton and Wandsworth.  Promotes civic pride, highlighting a local landmark and celebrating the	2023	September 2023	476 Garratt Lane	Summerstown182 – Geoff Simmons		Plaque unveiled on 9 September 2023, in front of 30+ people at 476 Garratt Lane, Earlsfield. Preceded by a guided walk of local area – included in Wandle Fortnight programme.

	tenacity of independent traders.						
<p>“Lost Nursery of blooming Tooting” plaque project.</p> <p>To research and install a plaque at the site of Rollissons, an historic Victorian nursery.</p> <p>Project has important crossover with Merton’s horticultural heritage and will be celebrated as part of Wandle Fortnight.</p>	<p>Helps to capture for posterity, an important aspect of local history, recording the people, places and events familiar associated with horticulture in Merton and Wandsworth.</p> <p>Promotes civic pride, highlighting an important aspect of local industry that might otherwise remain unrecognised.</p>	2023	September 2023	Tooting High Street	Summerstown182 – Geoff Simmons		<p>Plaque unveiled on 23 September 2023, in front of 70+ people at 25 Moffat Road, Tooting. Preceded by a guided walk of local area. Included participation of Fircroft Primary School. Part of Wandle Fortnight.</p> <p>All upcoming Walks and Talks are listed here on Eventbrite  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/geoff-simmons-summerstown182-11852456462">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/geoff-simmons-summerstown182-11852456462</a></p>
To update and expand the menu of online talks and presentations available from Wandle Industrial Museum	To provide an option to attend events in the face of health restrictions (e.g covid 19) and to meet wider audiences.	Summer 2021	Ongoing	Wandle Industrial Museum, plus remote working by museum staff	Wandle Industrial Museum Operations Team and trustee John Hawks.		<p>The museum is continuing to review and expand its range of online talks and presentations.</p> <p><b>No change reported since May '23 update</b></p>
Wandle Industrial Museum will build on its social media outreach to encourage interest from younger groups	Increased footfall or virtual visitor numbers for museum; Increased awareness of Merton’s heritage and broadening of local history knowledge for education projects at all levels.	Spring 2021	Ongoing	Wandle Industrial Museum, plus remote working by museum staff	Mick Taylor		<p>The museum’s social media followers continue to increase, prompting an associated rise in awareness of its collections and service offer. In recent months, museum staff have also noted a slight increase in footfall.</p> <p><b>No change reported since May '23 update</b></p>
AFC/WiSH visitor experience <b>Phase 2</b> : Develop the Blue and Yellow Trail (combining a heritage walk, sports/local stories, heritage touchpoints and the installation of commemorative plaques at appropriate sites in Merton and Wandsworth.	Highlights local heritage at the stadium site and beyond; Engages wider community with local heritage (including non-sports fans); Preserves personal stories for posterity; Supports tourism and creates dialogue with local businesses	2021	Early 2023	AFC Wimbledon Stadium, Plough Lane and associated sites in the Wimbledon/ Wandsworth area	Wimbledon in Sporting History/AFC Wimbledon with support from Dons Trust and Wimbledon Foundation.		<p>WiSH/AFC are creating a yellow and blue plaque trail in partnership with the heritage services of Merton, Wandsworth and Kingston.</p> <p>Plaques will relate to Wimbledon football history from 1889 to the present and the trail is planned for Spring 2024.</p> <p>WiSH propose to host their Hall of Fame on screens, allowing for ready access throughout the AFC ground. The budget estimate for this is £20K – to be raised in part through a high</p>

							<p>level raffle in partnership with AFC's commercial department.</p> <p>A £60K HLF application is planned for summer 2024 to fund production of "Tapes Up" – a film highlighting the history of speedway across London and Wimbledon. This 2024/5 project will also cover installation of the Ronnie Moore Speedway Statue and will be in partnership with Dons Den, Digital Works, WSRA, BSA and other speedway stakeholders.</p>
Phase 3 development of full stadium heritage/visitor experience combining traditional and interactive displays.	Consolidates position of the club within the community; Enables far greater public access to unique sports heritage and collection; Increased footfall/tourism benefits; Material in more accessible formats for visitors with additional needs	TBC	2025	AFC Wimbledon Stadium, Plough Lane	Wimbledon in Sporting History/AFC Wimbledon with support from Dons Trust and Wimbledon Foundation.		<p>WiSH continues to work to secure the return of Wimbledon F C / AFC heritage items 2023/4. Stadium tours are expanding, with the aim to make Plough Lane a primary football tourism destination and increase the international audience for Wimbledon heritage.</p> <p>WiSH/AFC are planning a history of Wimbledon football shirts from February 2024, with an interactive short sponsorship event, featuring 60 mannequins (celebrating the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Sports Interactive.)</p> <p>In 2024 WiSH also creating a virtual platform to make all their audiovisual material freely available in one place. This will include films: Common Ground, Walking Down the Haydons Road, Wimbledon Story and Billy Holmes story; plus promotional videos.</p>
To create a Sports learning, research and library resource.	This will help to safeguard a valuable sports heritage resource for posterity. It will help to raise awareness of the Club's origins and unique history, supporting lifelong learning for both fans and academic researchers.	Draft proposal submitted to Club 9/12/21	Autumn 2022	AFC Wimbledon Stadium, Plough Lane	Wimbledon in Sporting History/AFC Wimbledon with support from Dons Trust and Wimbledon Foundation.		<p>Discussions are ongoing between WiSH/AFC and potential regarding the introduction of library facilities on site.</p> <p>WiSH is also undertaking a sizeable archiving project, including creation of a virtual library. Records from 1899-1950 have been scanned, with support from private collectors.</p>
<b>OBJECTIVE 2: To Safeguard the borough's varied heritage sites and resources, protecting and conserving them for the benefit of future generations</b>							
<b>Project / Activity:</b>	<b>Expected Benefit:</b>	<b>Start date:</b>	<b>End Date:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Responsible Group/Officer:</b>	<b>Status R/A/G</b>	<b>Progress feedback from responsible group/officer</b>
To safeguard Dorset Hall, Kingston Rd. Merton Park for ongoing heritage and community use. This property is the former home of suffragette, Rose	Restoration of a Grade II listed building of national significance to British	2021	Ongoing	Dorset Hall, Kingston Rd. Merton Park	Previously the Dorset Hall Group working in		Merton Park Ward Residents Association do not feel able to assume project responsibility from DHG. However the association has agreed to include Dorset Hall in its usual

Lamartine Yates and was a key campaign venue for the women's suffrage movement in Merton.	politics and gender equality.	(Some preliminary work already undertaken in 2019/20)			partnership with Clarion Housing and Future Merton, LBM  March 2023: DHG handed over the project to local ward Councillors & the Merton Park Residents Association.		scrutiny of local buildings and developments, in the hope of ensuring a suitable ongoing use of the building.  DHG has been working with Councillors Stephen Mercer and James Williscroft, Clarion Housing, MPWRA and council heritage staff to ensure that a plaque is installed at Dorset Hall. This will commemorate Rose Lamartine Yates and link to associated information on the Heritage Service Merton Memories website.  The sale of Dorset Hall is near complete and the new owner has agreed to honour the plaque commitment. Installation will hopefully take place in late 2023/early 2024, subject to approval from the council's Urban Design and Conservation team (which is still pending.)
Installation of interpretive material regarding the history of Canons House and Ground.	Creation of a publicly accessible educational, heritage and community resource; Increased awareness of local heritage.	Spring 2023	Winter 2023	Canons House and Grounds, Mitcham	Amy Keen, LBM (working in partnership with a number of local heritage and community organisations)		Interpretation proposals (basement exhibition/sharing space, outdoor panels, wayfinding signs) are being designed and are due to be installed this winter.
Write a management plan for the ancient woodland of Ashen Grove, which covers both LBM and AELTC controlled land.	Just 2.5% of UK woodland is classified as ancient. This work will help to preserve a valuable natural heritage asset,	TBC	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		Omission from Local Plan Site of Importance for nature conservation corrected.  AELTC propose access route through the wood No progress yet on Management Plan
Review the management plan of historic Horse Close Wood.	Improved wellbeing and biodiversity.	TBC	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Dr. Dave Dawson & Friends of Wimbledon Park		Review of plan underway and likely to recommend closure of the car park in the historic wood.
FOWP to investigate potential for environmental improvements and supporting greater biodiversity in Wimbledon Park e.g the addition of nesting banks for Kingfishers and Sand Martins; restoration of wet woodland fringe and the creation of a lakeside walk.	Supports the Green and Blue Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Open Space Study' LBM 2020*; enhances the historic park, improving vistas, so adding to the visitor experience. Improves access to nature and supports wellbeing.	TBC	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		New Local Plan policy at public inquiry stage FOWP to liaise with the three owners of the park, relevant LBM Officers, and biodiversity experts. AELTC proposals and community alternatives have both sought this.  There is an existing obligation for the designation of a publicly accessible walkway around the lake once both golf usage of the site and relevant leases cease.

	*As amended during the Local Plan Examination.						
The negotiated de-culverting of Wimbledon Park Brook in the public park offers the opportunity to increase blue green assets by providing a garden and an extension of free to use space.	This will benefit nature, visitors' wellbeing and be educational. An enlarged café in line with LBM Masterplan 2018 will enable a social hub for groups to meet. The crazy golf will need relocating.	2023	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		FOWP will seek discussion with L B Merton
To enhance the trees of the public park, in keeping with the Capability Brown legacy. FOWP to investigate the potential for more meadow grassland to support rewilding.	Enhances and maintains the historic park. Promotes biodiversity and helps to balance public use of the park with support for its flora and fauna.	2022	February 2023	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		FOWP to liaise/work with the 3 owners of the park and relevant officers.  Tree planting in the public park continues to plan.  Compensatory planting for harm to Ashen Grove Wood not fully successful
To discuss the Wimbledon Park tree strategy with the Wimbledon Club		2023	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		The tree strategy outlined in AELTC's Wimbledon Park project will be addressed by the Planning committees of L B Merton and L B Wandsworth.  FOWP will seek to progress discussions with the Wimbledon Club.
1) FOWP will work with the local community, LB Wandsworth, Historic England and the owners of the Grade II* listed historic park, to prepare a master plan to guide its future use.  2) This will secure the future of the park, taking full account of alternative ways of achieving its heritage, amenity, biodiversity, play, sports, informal recreation and economic potential.  3) FOWP will ensure consistency with existing covenants and heritage, employ rewilding, retain ancient and heritage features, views and soils, enhance landscapes, remove the listed park from the "At Risk	Delivering Wimbledon Park from Historic England's 'At Risk Register'.	2023	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		This is an ambitious but necessary project. Wimbledon Park has been examined using a holistic approach and plans drawn up for discussion. A phased approach to improvements allows work to be carried out in stages. Revelstoke Road entrance improvements is an example of this. Other phases are being consulted on and include the Wimbledon Park Arena, a nature reserve around the lake encompassing a public walkway, and renewal of Café Landscape.  <b>No change reported since May '23 update</b>

Register”, conserve and increase priority species, priority habitats and tree cover and enhance free public access.							
To work with the community to review and add to the Local List of buildings and structures possessing architectural and historic interest.	Increased awareness of local heritage; Recognition of the historic significance of particular buildings and structures; Council has the necessary background information to ensure that development proposals are sympathetic to the character of the building concerned.	2021	Annual review	Borough-wide	Jill Tyndale, Future Merton team, LBM		No further update at the current time.
To develop Merton’s Local Plan	Helps to increase awareness of the historic environment; Ensures that the value and significance of heritage assets. Establishes planning policies including those protecting heritage assets and identifies heritage assets on the policies map.	Work started in 2018	2023	Borough-wide	Tara Butler, Future Merton team, LBM		Merton’s Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2021.  The Secretary of State has appointed two planning inspectors and the public hearings took place in June and October 2022. The next steps are for the Planning Inspectors to ask the council to organise post-hearings public consultation on any main amendments proposed to the local plan during the independent examination so far. The Planning Inspectors will take consultation responses into account in their final report. The dates and details of the consultation will be available online in due course via: <a href="http://www.merton.gov.uk/local-plan-examination">www.merton.gov.uk/local-plan-examination</a>
To encourage the Council to repair the bandstand roof and plinth in the John Innes Park	Restoration of a heritage Arts and Crafts structure and reduced risk of permanent damage.	2021	TBC	John Innes Park	John Innes Society Committee		Additional graffiti is still being added on occasions. Recent repairs to the roof are proving totally inadequate  <b>No change reported since May '23 update.</b>



To continue to urge the Council for action in restoring sections of historic perimeter walls.	Restoration of historic structures, improving safety and so securing major listed locations for future generations.	2021	TBC	Church Lane Playing Field and Church Path, Merton Park	John Innes Society Committee		No further responses received for Playing Field wall since Conservation Officer's visit.  <b>No change reported since May '23 update.</b>
To request Council action in the repair of locally listed toilets in John Innes Park	Safety of users and continued public access to facilities in a unique building.	2021	TBC	Near the tennis courts at John Innes Park	John Innes Society Committee		Still no evident action nor any communication received by The Society. This situation has been flagged up for some time now without any response.  <b>No change from May '23 update.</b>
To request Council help in assessing and repairing the churchyard wall of St Mary's, Merton Park	To ensure that sections are made safe and to preserve the ancient perimeter of the churchyard.	2022 (asap)	TBC	The corner of Church Path and Church Lane, Merton Park	John Innes Society Committee (in consultation with St. Mary's PCC)		Churchyard wall had been sloping for years and collapsed on to pavement near local primary school. Stones left on path now stolen. Path repaired but wall still minus huge sections.
Merton Heritage Service will expand on the success of the Carved in Stone (WW1) project, to capture and increase physical / online access to Merton's Second World War history, including the war stories of local people, historic documents and period memorabilia.	Unique personal testimonies captured from the wartime generation and preserved for posterity; Development of Merton's WW2 collection; Potential for conservation work and improved collections care (subject to external /community funding); Increased awareness of and engagement with Merton's heritage.	TBC	2025	Merton Heritage Centre; Merton Memories /Carved in Stone website(s)	Sarah Gould, LBM		No further update at present - project start not yet scheduled. SG to identify project partners and produce funding application in 2024.
Secure funding for / implement the "Surrey Then & Now" project. This will involve submission of a lottery bid to support the work. Working with Surrey History Centre, Merton Heritage staff will conserve and digitise its unique Grangerised edition of "Brayley's Illustrated Surrey," making the material publicly accessible for the first time, producing web resources, events and exhibitions for use both in Merton and Surrey heritage sites.	Unique heritage resources preserved for posterity and material made publicly accessible. Opportunities for partnership work with Surrey heritage sites. Project will provide opportunities for cross borough learning, skills development and schools' support.	Bid to be submitted in 2023.	2025	Merton Heritage Centre	Sarah Gould, LBM working with Surrey History Centre		SG liaising with Surrey History Centre and local heritage groups to design community "added value" aspect of the project (events, training and learning opportunities.)  Bid to be submitted in December 2023.

To raise awareness of the history of Wimbledon Palais through the "From airships to the Fab Four" project. This to include digitisation of associated documents from the heritage collection, oral history recording, the creation of associated displays, online resources, heritage trails and reminiscence material..	Preserves and increases access to unique historic material; increases public awareness of Merton's cultural significance; provides opportunities for learning, volunteering and promotes active lifestyle.	2024	2025	Merton Heritage Centre	Sarah Gould, LBM working with Townsweb Archiving		<b>New addition to plan.</b>
(Clarification of original entry)  Assessing and digitising the Society's archive of slides, photographs and research papers	Wider availability of our resources via website and publications	01/03/21	30/9/27		Merton Historical Society Committee		Ongoing and on schedule
Continue seasonal public access to the Merton Priory Chapter House (Sunday opening) with incremental improvements to the museum display and publicity	Provision of a unique Heritage/educational resource	3 April 2022	October 31 2022	The Chapter House, Merantun Way	Merton Priory Trust		Seasonal access (April to October '23) proved successful with a good footfall and plenty of customer interest. School/adult group visits and events continued, whilst new displays were also added.  <b>No change reported since May '23 update.</b>
To document and present the History of the Wimbledon Salvation Army Corps from 1887 to the present day.  This will involve recording the early history of the Corps, its bands, role in two World Wars, influence on local government, partnership working with Faith in Action, TLC drop-in and Merton Citizens.	Increased awareness of and engagement with Merton's heritage; Corps history and artefacts and identified and preserved for posterity; Ability to deliver talks to local history groups and interested parties; Material made accessible via displays and the Merton Memories Discovery Day web resource.	2021  (Initial work started 2017)	Ongoing	Salvation Army Wimbledon	Captain Annette Wicks and Richard Smart		Closer relations between the Mitcham Corps and the Wimbledon Corps (now based at Crown Lane, Morden) led to innovative park-based work with Children's 'Get Out' groups during the summer. The Corps are hoping to organise a special bus tour of the borough starting from Mitcham (Summer 2024).  The 2023 Discovery Day programme included a presentation and display on the Salvation Army's work re. Modern Slavery including the campaign on the Age of Consent led by Bramwell Booth, William Stead and Josephine Butler.
WiSH and Wombles initiative: This will combine a focus on football and rugby, incorporate a Wombles for Wimbledon History group; installation of a statue on the Plaza area near the stadium, where a dedicated kids zone	Supports community request for a local statue; Encourages cradle to grave engagement with the Club and local	2022	TBC	AFC Wimbledon Stadium, Plough Lane	Wimbledon in Sporting History/AFCW with support from the Dons Trust and the		Working in partnership with Wombles PLC and the Beresford family, WiSH/AFC have made five promotional videos with the Wimbledon Community Charity. Produced for WiSH/AFC, the Women's team, Wimbledon Foundation

(Wombles Burrow) will highlight aspects of local history. There will also be a major green-eco agenda, including schools outreach, film production/screenings. Formation of a dedicated wombles group to ensure litter picking and recycling in the stadium and its locality, plus creation of a Wombles hub for use by community groups.	heritage; Contributes to a Government backed nationwide green initiative. Consolidates club's position as a community hub and visitor destination for all ages.				Wimbledon Foundation.		and Dons Local Action Group, these materials are freely available for use.
To research and produce a film about the history of Greyhound racing at Plough Lane. This project will also dovetail with re-installation of the famous Mick the Miller greyhound mosaic in Greyhound Parad (as requested by Historic England.).	Captures and makes accessible an important aspect of Merton's sporting heritage. Helps to foster links between WiSH and other sports heritage groups / enthusiasts. Creates opportunities for volunteers to use existing talents and develop new skills.	2022	Autumn 2023	AFC Wimbledon Stadium, Plough Lane	Wimbledon in Sporting History/AFCW and Digital Works with support from the Greyhound Trust.		"Going to the Dogs" film release and mosaic installation will be completed between November '23 and April '24.  WiSH awaiting confirmation of £60K HLF grant, working in partnership with Digital Works, Merton Heritage Service, the Mick the Miller Society, plus financial contributions from Galliards and the Greyhound Racing Board.

**OBJECTIVE 3: Ensure that Merton's heritage provision is inclusive by working collaboratively to widen public engagement and participation**

<b>Project / Activity:</b>	<b>Expected Benefit:</b>	<b>Start date:</b>	<b>End Date:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Responsible Group/Officer:</b>	<b>Status R/A/G</b>	<b>Progress feedback from responsible group/officer</b>
To deliver an ongoing programme of activities and events engaging local communities with the heritage of Canons House and the associated grounds. This includes the historic running track.	Increased awareness of local heritage; Greater public participation involvement with the Canons project; Heritage engagement across a diverse audience	2017	End date extended to 30 December 2023	The Canons, Madeira Road (plus potential for work at other Mitcham venues)	Amy Keen, LBM (working in partnership with a number of local heritage and community organisations)		<p>Interpretation projects completed in 2023 (all due to feature in new basement exhibition/sharing space):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 'House Portraits' with Rob Greig</li> <li>· 'Stitching Stories' with Made in Merton</li> <li>· 'Back to the Track' reminiscence project</li> </ul> <p>2023 events/activities delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Canons Autumn Art Festival</li> <li>· Canons Summer Fair (funded by LBM Climate Engagement)</li> <li>· Sport Weekend (inc Wimbledon Big Screen)</li> <li>· 'What's On' programme of activities</li> <li>· Library in the Park</li> </ul> <p>Trails (tree, discovery, audio are in development.</p> <p>Canons House Community Workspace and Interpretation Space due to launch in November '23</p>

To take forward AELTC proposals to transfer tennis qualifying rounds to Wimbledon Park.	Increased awareness of and usage of historic Wimbledon Park; Greater footfall; Potential for raising awareness of and increasing public engagement with Merton's heritage. Will assist in the removal of Wimbledon Park from Historic England's "heritage at risk register"	2019	TBC	Wimbledon Park	AELTC (working with LBM LBW, Historic England, The Gardens Trust, Friends of Wimbledon Park)		Site is part of the Local Plan - see project 4 above. Planning application 21/P2900 was submitted in August 2021 and subject to two rounds of public consultation. On 26 October 2023 the application was considered by Merton's Planning Committee who resolved to grant permission. The application is referable to the Mayor of London. Part of the site lies within the London borough of Wandsworth which is also considering the same application.
FOWP to review community/structural assets in the park and potential for them to be renewed.	Improvements to visitor experience. Potential to increase usage of park by a more diverse audience. Potential benefits to physical and mental health of the community.	2022	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		FOWP raised this issue during the examination of the Local Plan in June and October 2022 and are still waiting for the Inspector's report.  FOWP awaiting talks with the 3 park owners. These have been delayed due to the AELTC's WPP planning application.
FOWP to approach the 3 owners of the park regarding the need to improve footpaths, clear vistas and improve entrances.	Boosts park appeal; improves safety and enhances the visitor experience. Supports informal activity within the park (walking, sports, relaxing.)	2022	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		Delayed due to AELTC's WPP Planning application.
Wimbledon Park Volunteers to encompass all voluntary work in the historic park and widen public engagement and participation	More coordinated approach to voluntary work at this site. Increased number/diverse range of park volunteers. Supports physical/mental health and wellbeing in the community.	2022	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		Liaison with LBM, the Community Payback Team (CPT) and Idverde park staff continues.  Although small numbers, volunteer work in the public park is making it a better place for biodiversity and visitors wellbeing.
Revised Heritage Walk in preparation	Up-to-date tours by and for interested groups.	January 2023	Autumn 2023	For walks starting at the Coach House	John Innes Society Committee		No further update apart from change to end date.
Talks programme to be extended	To involve more local speakers and increase subjects covered.	Autumn 2023	Ongoing	Coach House, Melrose Road, Merton Park	John Innes Society Committee		Work ongoing.

Regular themed displays from a local artist for the window of the Society's HQ	To reflect the aims of the society, publicise local events and attract interest.	Winter 2022	Ongoing	Window of the Coach House, Melrose Road, Merton Park	John Innes Society Committee		Regular planning for next display.
Through its Merton Memory Bank and Common Sense projects, Merton Heritage Service will devise systems to make collections more accessible to people with additional needs and learning difficulties, using sensory displays, digital resources and activities for care homes and day centres.	Increased awareness of local heritage; Increased opportunities for heritage engagement amongst target audience; More opportunities for social interaction and learning	October 2022	Ongoing	Merton Heritage and Local Studies Centre (plus Merton Memories website and via online event platforms e.g. Zoom)	Sarah Gould, LBM		SG will work with specially recruited volunteers to revamp memory boxes for use in Merton care homes and the Dementia Hub. Heritage team is also looking at recently donated material to create more themed resources to support men living with Dementia. Full programme currently being planned for use with Age UK and Alzheimer's Society.
Merton Heritage Service will work with local BAME and cultural groups to make collections more representative of and accessible to Merton's diverse community. This will include on-site research to identify relevant material within the existing heritage collection, outreach work, active collection / digitisation of relevant source materials and a community exhibitions and events programme hosted online, at the Heritage Centre and community venues.	Increased awareness of local heritage; Collection is more accessible, relevant and representative of the modern borough population; Opportunities to promote social inclusion and understanding; Greater community engagement with local heritage both as donors, heritage volunteers and event participants.	May 2021	2025/ Ongoing	Merton Heritage and Local Studies Centre (plus Merton Memories website and via online event platforms e.g. Zoom)  Community venues to be included	Sarah Gould, LBM		Merton Heritage Service has staged displays, talks and produced resources for Windrush Day, South Asian Heritage Month and Black History Month. This included a very successful Windrush Portraits exhibition at Morden Library, with street displays via J C Deceaux panels across the borough (working with Positive Networks). Heritage/Education staff ran very successful schools competitions and associated displays in June and October (Windrush / Black History Month). 18 schools took part and launch events were each attended by 100+ students. SG now planning full programme of BAME linked events for Merton schools in 2024, including activities for Gypsy Roma Traveller Month. For the first time, the 2023 Discovery Day included aspects of Traveller heritage and participation from the Polish Families Association.
The Heritage Service will work with community and heritage partners to develop a Civic Pride plaques scheme, highlighting individuals, places and events relevant to the borough's BAME, Women's history, LGBTQiA+ and sporting heritage.	Boosts civic pride and awareness of under-represented heritage; Volunteers develop transferable skills (research, ICT, outreach, presentation and display work); Supports local curriculum, offering opportunities for intergenerational learning; Health	April 2023	2025	Merton Heritage and Local Studies Centre, plus Merton Memories website and public plaque sites / community venues in the north, south, east and west of the borough.	Sarah Gould, LBM		Funding bid to be produced in December 2023.  In the meantime local history talks, displays, social media posts, external display panels and new heritage trails have been used to highlight people, places and events linked to BAME, women's/LGBTQIA+ history and sporting heritage.

	benefits from project volunteering and events (mental wellbeing and active lifestyle.)						
To work on collating and identifying archive material about the history of Merton's LGBTQIA+ community	Increased awareness of local heritage; Collection is more accessible, relevant and representative of the modern borough population; Opportunities to promote social inclusion and understanding	June 2021	Ongoing	Merton Heritage and Local Studies Centre (plus Merton Memories website)	Sarah Gould, LBM		Work is ongoing but has been delayed due to staff/volunteer workload and availability. The Service produced a range of online resources and displays for LGBTQIA+ Heritage Month (Feb '23). These were well received and SG is looking to work with Merton's local LGBT+ Forum to devise new events for 2024.
Assessing, planning and activating social media platforms alongside Society website, plus eye-catching printed brochure highlighting aspects of local history together with the Society's ongoing activities	Broader outreach and engagement	01/10/22	30/09/27		Merton Historical Society Committee		Merton Historical Society Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) accounts created in June 2023. Regular posts being added by Society rep.
Launch a programme of events, including a new Youth Theatre project part-funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy	Educational/arts resource	April 2022	Ongoing	The Chapter House	Merton Priory Trust		In 2022 two youth theatre classes and two art exhibitions were planned, plus a history study afternoon and an inaugural piano recital. Other events are on hold until drainage completed <b>No change from May'23 update.</b>
To refresh Wandle Industrial Museum displays with particular attention to the needs of special group visitors.	Increased awareness of engagement with local heritage; Meets requirements of groups previously unable to fully access items on display.	Winter 2021	End of 2023	Wandle Industrial Museum display area	Wandle Industrial Museum Operations Team		The museum team is working to ensure that the requirements of individuals with special needs are addressed wherever possible. This is by working with special needs groups e.g. Merton Dementia Hub
Wandle Industrial Museum will assist and support external heritage groups both in Merton and the wider Wandle Valley .	Increased museum profile at external partner events; Greater external engagement, partnership work and participation in museum events.	Summer 2021	Ongoing	Wandle Industrial Museum and external venues where appropriate	Wandle Industrial Museum Operations Team		Staff are continuing to expand the museum's links to other Wandle related groups. <b>No change reported since May'23 update</b>
Wimbledon Salvation Army will devise and run a Merton Faith and Fellowship Walk This will trace a walk from Southfields to South Wimbledon first conducted as an interfaith walk and subsequently as a 'virtual' walk for	Greater awareness of Merton's heritage; Appreciation of different faiths in the borough - Merton SACRE lists 76	2021	Ongoing	Salvation Army Wimbledon	Richard Smart		The Salvation Army team is now investigating whether the online walk could be turned into a physical walk, or used for Faith guide training in 2023/4.

Open House and South Thames College.	places of worship in Merton. The walk includes mosques, synagogues, churches, Buddhist, and Hindu temples in Merton.						Development work will be undertaken with the Merton Faith and Belief Forum who have led a previous walk.
To develop and stage an Anti-Slavery Walk, marking 200 years since the founding of the Anti-slavery Society (1823) and 190 years since the death of William Wilberforce (1833). The guided walk will run from the site of Wilberforce's Wimbledon home, to his burial place at Westminster Abbey and will refer to local slave owners/traders and site of significance on route. It will also cover the Victorian campaigns against the trafficking of women, led by eminent Wimbledon residents, Josephine Butler and William Stead and the Salvation Army's more recent efforts to fight 'modern slavery'.	Increased awareness of the history of slavery and how it effects our society to this day. Helps to link Wimbledon with other London sites associated with the history of slavery. Helps to unite the borough's diverse community in sharing their history and fighting modern slavery.	2021	2024	Walk starts from junction of Southside and Lauriston Road, Wimbledon (Site of Wilberforce plaque)	Richard Smart, Salvation Army Wimbledon		Following on from discussions with the Cabinet member for Culture, Leisure & Skills and local walking groups, a 3 stage Wilberforce Walk was held on 15 October 2023 (Anti-Slavery Day) and proved highly successful.  The Salvation Army is now looking into the possibility of running this as an annual walk from Wimbledon to Westminster – working on conjunction with other organisations including Merton Heritage Service. The route could be varied to include Clapham, Brixton, and Lambeth
<b>OBJECTIVE 4: To recognise the important contribution of social enterprise and secure ongoing funding and investment in Merton's heritage through partnership work, external funding and sponsorship</b>							
<b>Project / Activity:</b>	<b>Expected Benefit:</b>	<b>Start date:</b>	<b>End Date:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Responsible Group/Officer:</b>	<b>Status R/A/G</b>	<b>Progress feedback from responsible group/officer</b>
FOWP to investigate funding opportunities and methods for supporting social prescription in the park. (Boosting therapeutic activities – gardening, sports, volunteering to benefit people suffering from depression, health issues, isolation, addiction recovery.)	Therapeutic benefits for a wide range of people, including residents with physical / mental health issues; special needs, social or emotional difficulties.	TBC	TBC	Wimbledon Park	Friends of Wimbledon Park		Delayed due to AELTC's WPP planning application.
Merton Heritage Service will seek funding to redevelop Merton Heritage & Local Studies Centre. This will involve improvements to displays and storage, in addition to the representation of Merton's diverse community	Improved collections care; Expanded range of display formats; Service and collection are more accessible and user-friendly for the wider community;	TBC	2025	Merton Heritage & Local Studies Centre	Sarah Gould, LBM		SG now working on proposals to redevelop Merton Heritage Centre, in addition to adding more heritage content at each local library. This will involve designated site volunteers and the programming of site-based displays, events and heritage awareness raising.

	Increased public engagement with Merton's heritage						
Merton Heritage Service will seek funding to digitise and make publicly accessible key sections of its collection including maps, directories and photographs (expanding the existing Merton Memories collection).	Improved collections care; Collection is more accessible; Opportunities for increased and more diverse public engagement with Merton's heritage; Potential for income generation through appropriate licensing.	October 2022	2025	Merton Heritage & Local Studies Centre	Sarah Gould, LBM		Service manager and volunteers now working on reserve image collection to sort, catalogue and digitise material. SG will also investigate potential funding sources for digitising heritage maps collection.
Engagement with Merton schools and teachers to raise awareness of the services offered by the museum.	Currently the museum will be asked by schools to hold a Textile Printing workshop for Key Stage One and Two. The museum is able to offer more information on local industries to support the history element of the curriculum for all age groups. This will benefit students by increasing their knowledge of local heritage and the environment.	Started March 2020	January 2023	Subject to review	Wandle Industrial Museum Operations Team.		The museum is continually reviewing its approach to schools. All schools local to the museum have been sent information on what we offer. We will increase communication with schools with offers and information that may suit their curriculum needs.
Despite being a valuable Merton resource, local knowledge of the museum is low. Pop up displays are therefore being planned to publicise the museum in supermarkets, libraries and other popular locations.	Individuals and families to become more aware of the history and heritage on their doorstep. Increased engagement enables people to take more interest in their local community and issues concerning the heritage of their area.	Spring 2022	Ongoing	Local libraries, supermarkets and other suitable venues in Mitcham, Morden and Merton (Colliers Wood).	Wandle Industrial Museum Operations Team.		Pop-ups have been held at some locations and we are looking at other possible sites.  <b>No change reported since May '23 update</b>
Develop partnerships between WiSH/AFCW and other sports, cultural and heritage groups.	Builds cohesive and effective partnerships to increase community engagement with local heritage.	2021	Ongoing	AFC Wimbledon Stadium, Plough Lane and other appropriate local venues	Wimbledon in Sporting History/AFC Wimbledon		WiSH/AFC continues to expand its local, national and international partners.  A new initiative for 2024 will involve bringing together Dons international groups. As part of virtual development, an interactive world map



	Creates a heritage hub at the stadium; Maximises resources and the sharing of expertise, supporting greater public access to local heritage.						will allow visitors to click on a particular country to bring up information on Dons groups, their history and origins. WiSH is also considering a club international association.
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>COMPLETED PROJECTS:</b>			
<b>OBJECTIVE 1: To raise Merton's profile by increasing public access to the borough's unique and diverse cultural heritage</b>			
<b>Project / Activity:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>End Date:</b>	<b>Responsible Group/Officer:</b>
Design/install new information signs in John Innes Park.	Merton Park	Summer 2022	Friends of J Innes Park and John Innes Society
Complete redesign and refurbishment of Museum of Wimbledon	Wimbledon	November 2022	Jacqueline Laurence/Wim. Soc Museum Refurbishment Committee
Install plaque commemorating Francis Kitz, Wandle Bank and launch associated guided walk / online trail	Colliers Wood	9/4/2022	Geoff Simmons & Summerstown 182
Install plaque commemorating Marc Bolan and launch associated guided walk / online trail	Wimbledon/ Summerstown/ Tooting	18/9/2021	Geoff Simmons & Summerstown 182
Install plaque to the "People of Wardley Street" Traveller community and launch associated guided walk / online trail	Wandsworth (with Merton link-up)	October 2022	Geoff Simmons & Summerstown 182
Install plaque commemorating Corruganza box makers and launch associated guided walk / online trail	Wandsworth with Merton link-up	May 2023	Geoff Simmons & Summerstown 182
Enhance the exterior decoration of Wandle Industrial Museum	Mitcham	Summer 2022	Wandle Industrial Museum Operations Team
Deliver Phase 1 Visitor experience (Wimbledon in Sporting History) at the AFC Wimbledon stadium (Museum display, launch of stadium tours and associated arts installations)	Wimbledon	Summer 2022	Wimbledon in Sporting History/ AFC Wimbledon, Dons Trust & Wimbledon Foundation
<b>OBJECTIVE 2: To Safeguard the borough's varied heritage sites and resources, protecting and conserving them for the benefit of future generations</b>			
<b>Project / Activity:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>End Date:</b>	<b>Responsible Group/Officer:</b>
Create a cultural hub as part of the Canons House & Grounds project (National Lottery/Heritage funded).	Mitcham	August 2021	Alison Plant/Amy Keen (LBM) working with local heritage and community organisations
Sympathetic repairs to historic arch near the boundary to John Innes Park.	Merton Park	2023	John Innes Society Committee

Reservoir Dam safety works at Wimbledon Park lake	Wimbledon	Summer 2022	L B Merton and All England Club
Complete Borough Character Study	Borough-wide	June 2022	Tara Butler, Future Merton team (LBM)
<b>OBJECTIVE 3: Ensure that Merton's heritage provision is inclusive by working collaboratively to widen public engagement and participation</b>			
<b>Project / Activity:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>End Date:</b>	<b>Responsible Group/Officer:</b>
Exhibition to mark 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the John Innes Society	Merton Park	September 2021	John Innes Society Committee
Publish biography of architect Henry Quartermaine	Merton Park	February 2023	John Innes Society Committee
Deliver "There's More to Morden" project (walks, talks, displays, animations and community events)	Morden	April 2023	Sarah Gould, Merton Heritage Service
"Wandles from the Lane" project (memory capture, film production, schools programme, online and public events)	Wimbledon	August 2022	Wimbledon in Sporting History /AFC, Digital Works
AFC Wimbledon 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary programme (public events, book launch, artwork installation, Fan Club stage production)	Wimbledon	July 2022	Wimbledon in Sporting History /AFC, Digital Works