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# WIMBLEDON COMMON



A CHILDREN'S  
BOOK



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# Wimbledon Common

A Children's Story

An Overview

An inspiring story of how Small Animals  
overcame the odds, addressed their fears,  
and created The Wimbledon Spirit.

Here is an overview of The Book:



# Facts

Written by	Dog
Starring	Rabbits, Badgers, Foxes, Frogs, Butterflies, Birds, Ants, Puppies Princesses, The Wizard, Kings and Queens The Tree of Life, The Willow, Bluebells The stars
Pages	170
Periods	Ice Age, Middle Ages, Industrialisation, The Modern Era
eBook	Sent on booking VC
Hard Copy	Only available at VC
Pictures by	Max
Activities	In Appendix A – C, Experience Hub
Ages	10+, self-reading, small children, postcard pictures (parental support)
Themes	Small animals, nature, sport, evolution
Fact/Fiction	A fictional story based mainly on facts

# Why has this book been written?

What makes VC different are the 75+ Experiences.

What can take each Experience to a powerful level is meaning.

With every experience, we hope you ask a simple question, such as:

- What is the relevance of making a pizza at VC?
- What is the significance of playing mud golf in the VC garden?
- And how were many sports played globally formed on Wimbledon Common?
- Why is drawing a bluebell in the Cow Shed respectful?
- Why is it important to spend at least 10 minutes each day in the Gardener?
- How can preparing a drink in The Coconut Bar be meaningful?

A 170-page Children's Book entitled "Wimbledon Common, a children's book", has been written by the family to help share these meanings.

The book is based on numerous facts and is interactive. Moreover, it is written like a Christmas pantomime – having meaning for children and adults.

It explains the history of Wimbledon Common from the Ice Age, through the middle ages and Industrialisation and into The Modern Era. The pictures were architected by Max. Each character is based on someone so you need to work out who Max is!

The book shares The turbulent story of how Small Animals overcome the odds, addressed their fears, and created The Wimbledon Spirit. By reading this you will understand how VC was built and why specific Experiences have been created.

# Children's engagement

There are 3 suggested ways to engage with The Book:

1. For each child to read it and engage with the exercises in Appendix A
2. For a parent to read it and summarise to smaller children using picture postcards at VC
3. For the family to read a Chapter together or separately in different parts of VC and share their findings or debate the Appendix A exercises

Appendix A has interactive exercises which can be completed after reading a chapter or the entire book. Appendix B provides lyrics of songs that can be sung in the Gardener. Appendix C defines the trophies that can be won during your stay. Then, you can select and participate in the Experiences that have the most meaning for you.

**If you keep reading you can  
discover what is in each of the 12  
chapters and 3 appendices.**

# Forward

by Roger the Rabbit

My name is Roger. I am a rabbit and a writer and I live on Wimbledon Common. My family has lived on Wimbledon Common for thousands of years. Some of the family moved to Richmond Park over the last century.



We are a very, very large family. I guess if we were humans, we would be Irish! We laugh a lot and love music. I have decided to remain single, despite family pressures, to set up a monthly publication called Wimbledon Common News, so I guess this piece is a trial run!

Wimbledon Tennis started on Wimbledon Common and the Small Animals created 'The Wimbledon Spirit.' I am proud to say the rabbits started the migration westwards and the building of the only Underground in Wimbledon. We could not have done it without the help of the badgers, foxes and Wombles.

Our ancestors saw the birth of many of the sports that are watched by billions of Creatures globally.

All the Small Animals lived in fear for many centuries but gradually the world changed. The Small Animals were inspired to change their way of thinking by observing the birds, butterflies, Wombles, stars and even the ants. King David and The Wizard explained things we could never have otherwise understood.

Even a decade ago, if you told me this book would have been written by a dog, or a puppy would be managing our new home in the west, I would have thought you were from a different planet. We have been chased by dogs forever, so I am even prouder that we are now friends and can share our story together.

Dog did have a challenge in translating much of her writings, and some terms have different meanings in English, and so it is important to refer to the 'Ancient Meanings' on the previous pages while reading this book (you might wish to check what the italic terms she has used really mean).

This book is based on fact but Dog wants the book to be interactive and inclusive. This is why there are Appendices. As Dog says, as we evolve it is important that we work the truth out for ourselves.

*Roger*



# The Untold Story

## Chapter-1

### The Ice Age

Where it all began for the surviving small animals on Wimbledon Common

## Chapter-2

### The Aftermath

The Humans built Wimbledon from The Common

## Chapter-3

### A Spiritual Place

What made Wimbledon Common special for the small animals

## Chapter-4

### The Roman Empire

How the Roman Empire influenced Wimbledon

## Chapter-5

### Small Animal values

The set of Values by which small animals lived there lives

## Chapter-6

### The Noisy Period

How the World changed and became a dangerous place

## Chapter-7

### One World

Why did small animals feel they needed to move

## Chapter-8

### Inspirational Birds

How the stars and other creatures inspired the small animals to consider change

## Chapter-9

### The 1970's

How did the small animals gain confidence to travel to Brighton?

## Chapter-10

### The Migration West

What Motivated the mass exodus West?

## Chapter-11

### The Butterflies

How the Butterflies inspired the small animals to evolve

## Chapter-12

### A Lasting Legacy

What was the new challenge for the small animals?

## Chapter 1: The Ice Age

This chapter shares which animals were around before the Ice Age and the impact of the Ice Age on Wimbledon Common. We also consider what this meant for the land and how Small Animals were able to evolve.



## Chapter 2: The Aftermath

The aftermath of the Ice-Age including when humans first joined the Small Animals on Wimbledon Common.

## Chapter 3: A Spiritual Place

An insight into why the Small Animals loved Wimbledon Common. This included an introduction into ley lines which run through Wimbledon Common.

## Chapter 4: The Roman Empire

The significant impact of the Romans on Wimbledon Common and how they connected the Common to the rest of the UK.

## Chapter 5: Small Animal Values

The three core Values which guided the lives of Small Animals. The Small Animals were influenced by the Wombles.

## Chapter 6: The Noisy Period

A defining period known otherwise as Industrialisation. It was during this period many global sports were formed on Wimbledon Common. The River Wandle became one of the most industrial rivers in the World, shooting started on the Common and numerous buildings sprung up on and around Wimbledon Common. The Small Animals created the first Underground in Wimbledon – but not where you might think!

## Chapter 7: One World

Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park, Putney Heath and Putney Common were once one land, easily accessible via air (for the birds), the brook (water) and by land.

An explanation of how the Romans, King Charles 1 and a rich family made much of this world inaccessible. However, there were many reasons why some Small Animals felt they needed to migrate from Wimbledon Common to these other areas during The Noisy Period.

## **Chapter 8: Inspirational Birds**

The birds and other creatures inspired the Small Animals and changed their way of thinking. The birds and Woody (pigeon) would bring stories back from many parts of the world. This changed the way Small Animals thought.

## **Chapter 9: The 1970's**

The 1970s defined The Modern Era.

Wimbledon Tennis, the refurbished Roman road (A3) and the global recognition of The Wombles made Wimbledon the place to be. However, the world was starting to move in the wrong direction and the Wombles went underground.

## **Chapter 10: The Migration West**

The 1970s saw a major wave of mass migration west towards Richmond Park. This all started when the Small Animals adventured to Brighton for the 1974 Eurovision song contest. The Small Animals found a willow tree and made a home on the western most point of Wimbledon Common.

## **Chapter 11: The Butterflies**

How King David from Richmond Park (Sir David Attenborough) shared a story about the butterflies which started changing the mindset of Small Animals.



## Chapter 12: A Lasting Legacy

A moving chapter explaining how the home of the Small Animals was knocked down and then rebuilt. A puppy realised the world needed to change and took the initiative to create a new Era for Small Animals, larger animals and humans. Puppy decides to refurbish VC and open it up to anyone who wants to be part of the new Era – The Inclusive Era.

# Activities to undertake after reading *The Book*

# Appendix A

This story was written based on hundreds of facts. The challenge is to understand what those facts are and the Dog believes this is the fun part. After all, we are approaching the Inclusivity Era. The Dog is keen for you to be part of this story, and interact with it, and now you have the chance!

The *Small Animals*, like the Dog, have learnt it is important to question everything. By asking the right questions you can get the answers you need.

Going through this book line by line you can easily research what is fact and, as a result, what is true. There is no intention from the Dog to mislead, although sometimes facts might have been pieced together to create a storyline that is not totally true. For example, it is claimed the Roman Army was successful because the soldiers had great food, namely pizza and pasta. The Dog believes the Romans ate well and the Italians invented pizza (but that was centuries after the Roman Empire existed).

Only one person can work out the truth – and that is you.

Appendix A in The Book provides numerous statements the reader might wish to investigate. But first, and this is the fun part, you need to find the words and understand its context in each Chapter. At Easter the rabbit has an Easter Egg hunt so why can't a dog create a 'literature treasure hunt'?

## Appendix B

Appendix B provides the lyrics to the Small Animals favourite songs. You can sing to these, with accompanying musical instruments, in The Gardener.





# Appendix C

You will find the following trophies at VC. These include trophies which have been preserved over time by the squirrels. Many trophies still exist in the Wimbledon Common Underground but the squirrels cannot find them!

They are not necessarily awarded to the quickest or the best. The Small Animals believe that games (and all activities) need to be enjoyed with the right attitude, respect, effort and inclusivity. Each award can be awarded to multiple Creatures at any time together with a VC Certificate stamped by Puppy.



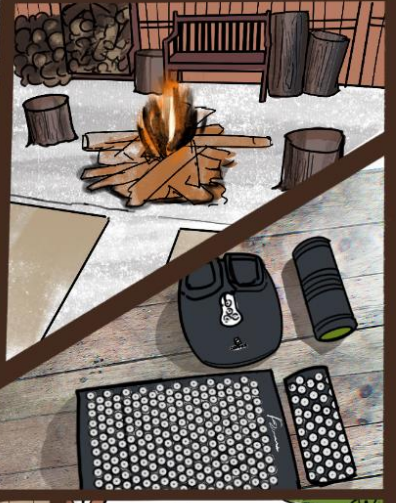
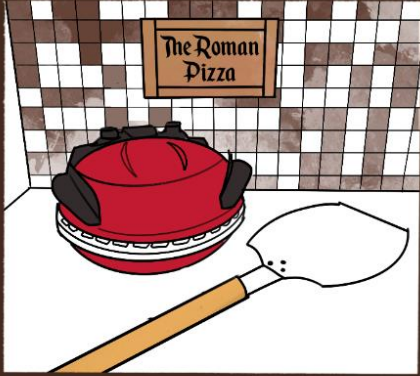


And now you can select the Experience that means the most to you in the Experience Hub at: [www.cottageinthecity.co.uk](http://www.cottageinthecity.co.uk)

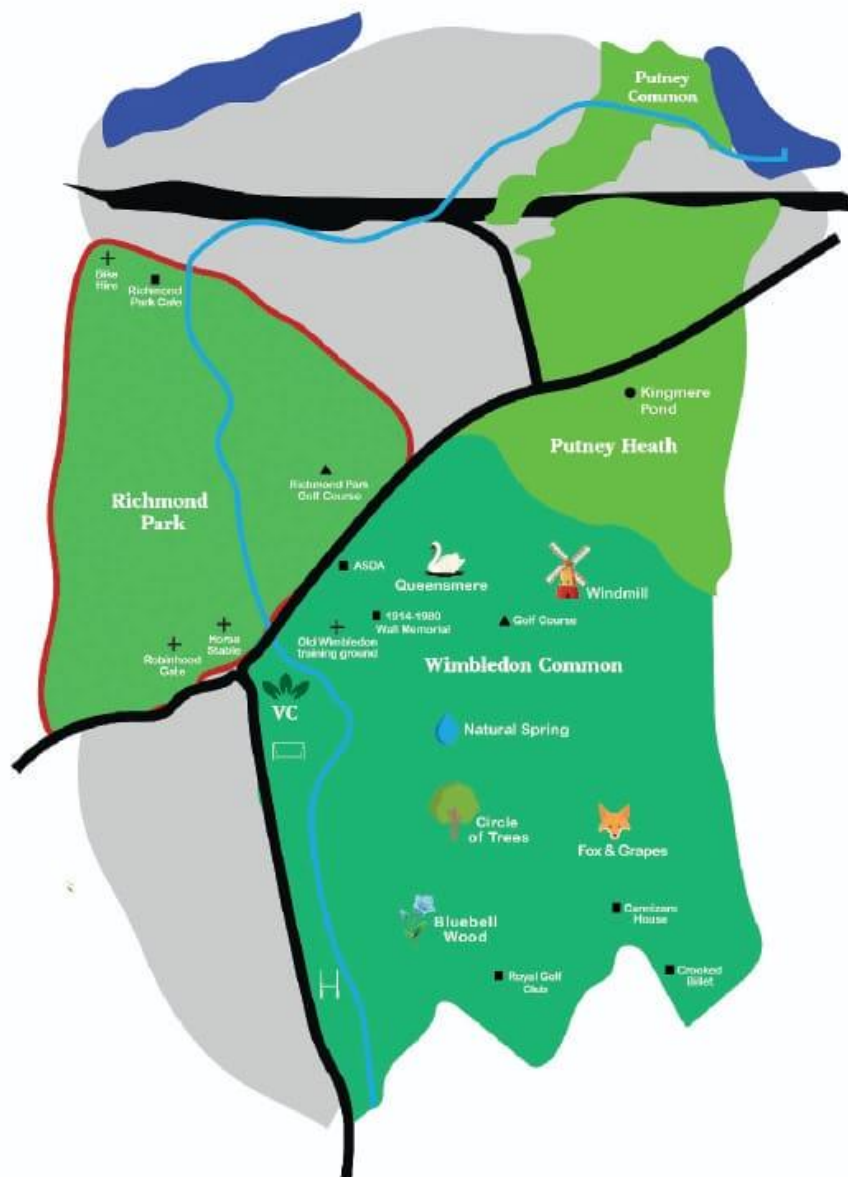
And enjoy them either:

- in The Wooden Cottage
- in the garden
- in the local area

# UC Experiences



# The Experience Map





## Key

- Buildings
- Natural Things
- ▲ Golf Courses
- + Other Landmarks

Direction	Place
North	Putney*, Richmond*, Fulham FC*, Chelsea FC, Cental London*
East	Wimbledon Village, Wimbledon Tennis, Wimbledon Park, Wimbledon Station, AFC Wimbledon The Wombles Bench, FC Tooting, Oldest Cricket Green in the World
South	Dinosaur Golf, New Malden, Brighton
West	Kingston*, Teddington*, Bushy Park, Twickenham



\*The River Thames can be visited here



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