

PORTRAIT OF WIMBLEDON

Beata Moore

Wimbledon has been inhabited since prehistoric times. The oldest remains in the area are of the Iron Age hill fort, but only in the sixteenth century did Wimbledon grow in size and importance. The arrival of railways to this rural area made it a desirable location for businesses and residents. The charming village of Wimbledon is characterised by elegant buildings, exquisite boutiques, top class restaurants and old pubs. Wimbledon town, unlike the village, is a busy place with a huge shopping centre called "Centre Court", cinemas, and the New Wimbledon Theatre built in 1910, staging many West End productions. Wimbledon Common, a vast woodland and heathland area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and an Area of Conservation. This unfenced area is abundant in wildlife, plants and trees. It is used for recreation by walkers, golfers and horse riders. On the edge of the Common there are two broad ponds, Kingsmere and Rushmere and in the centre, a well known symbol of Wimbledon – a Windmill constructed in 1817, now housing a museum. Wimbledon however is most famous for its Tennis Tournament. The All England Lawn Tennis Championships take place every June. Originally an amateur event, this oldest and most prestigious tournament in the world is played on grass and players are required to wear white. Wimbledon Tennis Club will be the venue for the tennis competition at the 2012 Summer Olympics. Wimbledon is also a home to many other attractions, like Southside House, built in William and Mary style with a fabulous collection of art, the Sacred Heart Gothic style church famous for its monumental size, St Mary's church with the remains of a medieval chancel, exotic Buddhapadipa Buddhist Temple and many parks, among them the lovely Cannizaro Park with many several hundred years old trees, ornamental landscaped gardens and splendid Georgian mansion.

Featuring over 150 superlative images and text reflecting this extraordinary diversity, renowned photographer Beata Moore's latest collection captures the essence of Wimbledon, its historic legacy and its vibrant present.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Beata Moore has been passionate about photography since the age of twelve when she received her first camera.

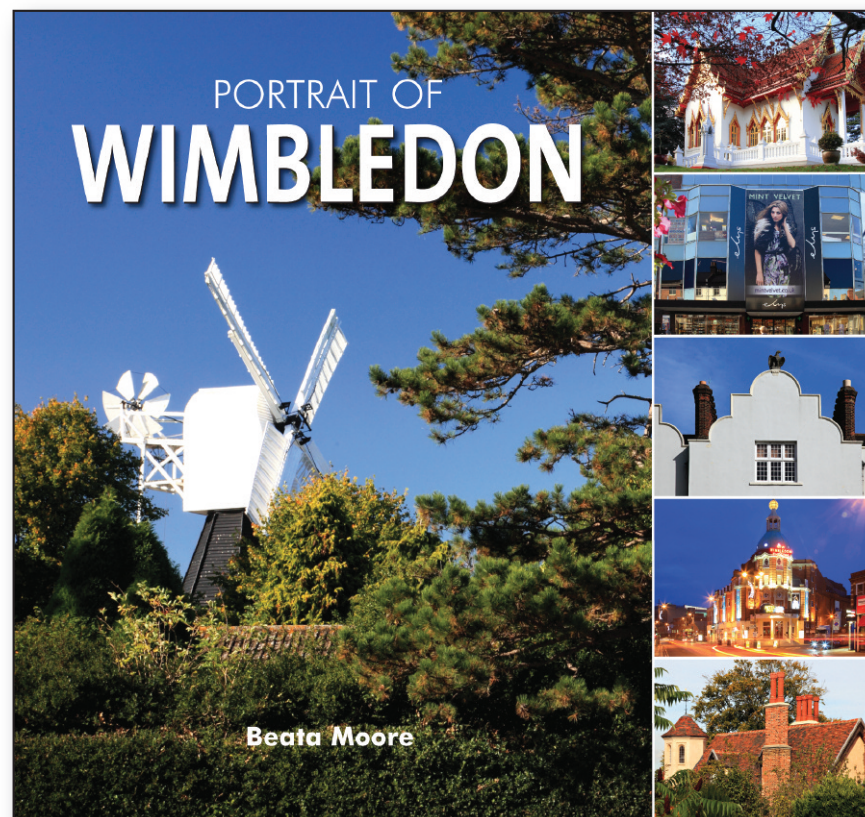
Initially interested in recording nature – she has a postgraduate degree in botany – as time progressed, she widened her interests and now equally enjoys taking pictures of landscapes and architecture. Beata's previous books are: *Cracow – city of treasures*, *A year in the life of the New Forest*, *The Square Mile*, *A year in the life of the Cotswolds* and *The Channel Islands*. Her photographs have been published in magazines and books and her work has been exhibited at galleries in London and across the UK. She lives in New Malden, Surrey.

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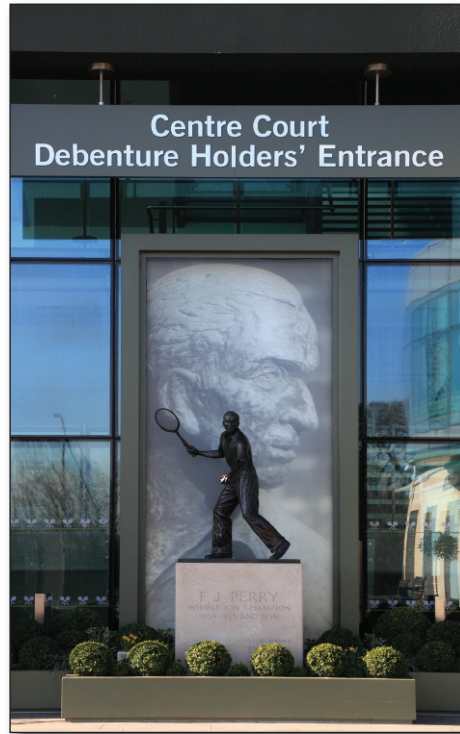


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Canizzaro Park

Top left: Wimbledon Tennis Museum; above left: The Broadway and New Wimbledon Theatre;
above right: Fred Perry statue by the Centre Court



King's College School

King's College School, a selective independent school is located on the southside of Wimbledon Common. To start with, the school occupied premises on the Strand in London, but moved to Wimbledon in 1897 when its headmaster bought some land here and a famous architect, Sir Basil Champness, designed the school buildings and the Great Hall. The hall, in neo-perpendicular style with the high gables, two red brick wings and ornamental parapets, is characteristic of Victorian architecture. The hall is one of the largest in England. During the war, the Great Hall was partially damaged during the Wimbledon bombing.



The Crooked Billiard

Opposite Southside House, across a large stretch of green there is the charming Crooked Billiard room with a group of seventeenth-century cottages and two seventeenth-century English pubs. The Crooked Billiard pub located on 14-16 Crooked Billiard was built in 1776, but there has been an old house on the site since 1509. The pub has a real sense of history inside, heavy old oak beams, uneven parquet flooring, medieval flagstones, windows paneled with dark oak glass. It is a cosy and welcoming place, popular with local residents and visitors alike, despite a resident ghost – an old Irish woman haunting the cellar! Roaring log fires in winter, picnic on the Green in summer and charming courtyard provide the perfect setting for a drink. The Hand in Hand pub, located on 11 Crooked Billiard was originally a bakery and was taken over by one of the ancestors of the Wimbledon brewing dynasty. Since 1835, the pub has offered a good selection of drinks and food. A small courtyard at the entrance and low ceilings give this pub a distinctive atmosphere of a local country pub. The grassy area outside is shared by both pubs and in the summer people gather here in their hundreds for a drink. Not to be outdone by the Crooked Billiard, the Hand in Hand pub also has a ghost. With such an evocative location and traditional character of the pubs, it is not difficult to understand the popularity of these places. Nearby the Gothic Lodge at Woodhays Road was built in 1763. The house depicts distinctive features of the eighteenth century "Gothic style" popularized by Horace Walpole at Strawberry Hill. The largest inhabitant of the Gothic Lodge was Sir William Preece, the Chief Post Office Engineer. He was famous for his many experiments with electricity. His home was the first in London that was wired for electric power and telecommunications. William Preece was also responsible for the installation of street lighting in the Wimbledon area.



Above right: The Crooked Billiard pub
Middle right: Hand in Hand pub
Bottom right: Gothic lodge at Woodhays Road



Buddhapadipa Temple



Southside House in Woodhays Road

Example of a double-page spread.