

# Wimbledon's Pageant: 800 Years in Two Hours

How do you squeeze 800 years into two hours? Host a pageant, with prominent local people dressing up and acting out Wimbledon's historic highlights.

Over 4,000 people attended Wimbledon pageant's opening show on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1925. It ran for two more days, with 1,000 people taking part. One historical re-enactment featured Queen Henrietta Maria and her children welcoming King Charles I to her Wimbledon home. Other attractions included a procession, a street market and exhibitions.

The main event took place in the extensive grounds of Wimbledon Park House, home of Princess Rosalie Wiasemsky. Rosalie was married to Prince Serge Wiasemsky, a Russian aviator and engineer. Their daughter, Tatiana, took part in the pageant – as the daughter of Queen Henrietta Maria and King Charles I. Money raised from the pageant went towards building a village hall in Wimbledon Park.

The Floral Tableau by child dancers in the Wimbledon Historical Pageant, Wimbledon Park in June 1925

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Marriage of Tom Lethaby to Mabel Edis Elliot on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1920 with Sir Ernest Shackleton, the explorer, as best man

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