

# *The Friends of Mt. Edgcumbe Country Park*

Registered Charity No. 295261

## **Report to the Joint Committee, July 2023**

As the new Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park I am pleased to submit this report which provides an overview of the FOMECP vision and Executive Committee structure and an update on membership, finances, events and future plans for the 'Friends'

### **Our Vision**

To work in partnership with the Park Management by funding, jointly or independently mutually agree projects within the Park.

To continue to support the Park, as set out in our Constitution 'to preserve, or assist in the preservation and enhancement of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park for the benefit of the public, as a place of historical, botanical, horticultural, architectural and natural beauty'

### **FOMECP Committee**

#### **Officer Posts**

**Chair** - Alan Drummond

**Vice Chair** - Ben Church

**Treasurer** - Carol Drummond

**Secretary** - Janet Vosper

**Membership Secretary** - Shane Perry

#### **Committee Posts**

Rozanne Griffiths-Woodcock

Jean Knight

Harry Vosper

### **Annual General Meeting**

At our annual general meeting in April five of our long standing experienced Committee members Neil Rugg, Anne and Steve Creese and Glen and Ged Edgcumbe did not seek re-election and I would like to go on record in thanking them for all that they have contributed to the 'Friends' and the Park during their time as Committee members.

However whilst they no longer sit on the Executive Committee all still take an active roll in supporting the 'Friends' and the Park.

There is no hiding the fact however that their loss has had a significant impact on the structure of the Committee with four of the five officer posts being filled by new incumbents and seven ordinary member posts remaining unfilled.

### **Membership**

Over the past few years through the pandemic like many other organisations membership sign ups have been extremely sporadic and numbers lower than in previous years. However I am pleased to report that we have seen somewhat of a resurgence and membership is currently nearing 800 which is the highest membership we have achieved since our formation in 1985 and reinforces the interest in the FOMECP and support in provides for the Park.



## **Financial Update**

The FOMECP financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December each year. Thus far in 2023 the 'Friends' have agreed to support six significant projects with a total financial commitment of £90,500

Annual spring bedding plants - £3,500

Remedial work to statues - £10,000

Children's Play Module (joint funding) - £8,000

Completion of Deer park fencing - £6,000

Refurbishment of traditional Cornish Hay Wagon - £3,000

Refurbishment of Orangery toilets (joint funding) - £60,000

The annual spring bedding planting has been completed and is as usual looking wonderful and a source of much positive comment from visitors to the Park.

The first phase of repairs to statutory has been completed and Athena and Diana the Huntress which are positioned close to the House are now back looking their best.

Our main financial commitment this year however remains our joint funding initiative of the long overdue refurbishment of the Orangery toilets, the plans for which have been prepared.

The FOMECP Committee continue to liaise with the Park Management in prioritising project funding within the Park.

## **Volunteers**

Although seeing a resurgence in membership the 'Friends' like many other like organisations continue to struggle to generate members who are prepared to undertake an active roll in the activities of the 'Friends' such becoming a member of the Committee or volunteering at events. Much of our income is generated through the events which we run and unless we are able to raise the volunteer base to ensure that such events can be run safely and to the standard which is expected such events will be in jeopardy.

## **FOMECP Events**

The arrangements for the forthcoming Annual Classic Car Show held on Sunday 6th August in conjunction with Cornwall Hospice Care are well advanced. Classic car entries are well up on last year and we are expecting a full complement of 800 cars to be on show on the day. Like all events of this nature we are very dependant on volunteers to ensure its success and am pleased to say that despite early concerns a number of people have come forward with offers of help which this has been supplemented by a local group of Air Cadets.

The FOMECP will be assisting the Park staff with parking arrangements in the Deer Park for people wishing to view the National Firework Championships on the 16th and 17th August from Mount Edgcumbe when a bucket collection will be taken towards funding projects in the Park.

The Committee will shortly be considering its plans with regard to events to be held in 2024.

## **Actions**

Continuing to support the Park and working in collaboration with the Park Manager and staff on mutually agreed projects for the benefit of the Park and its visitors.

Continuing to promote and support traders within the Park.

Endeavouring to encourage FOMECP members and others to take a more pro-active roll in supporting and volunteering to help with events and other activities held within the Park.

In this my first year as Chair of the 'Friends' I look forward to working with my Committee, the Park Manager and staff and all those with a vested interest in helping to preserve and enhance the Park for the benefit of all its visitors.

**Alan Drummond**

**Chair - Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park**

**July 2023**