

# *The Friends of Mt. Edgcumbe Country Park*

*Registered Charity No. 295261*

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

As the 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 agreed 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

Vacant x 7

### **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 £89,500

Annual spring bedding plants - £3,500 - **Completed**

Remedial work to statues - £10,000 - **Partially Completed**

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

Completion of Deer park fencing - £6,000 -

Formal Gardens Entrance Cornish Wall - £2,000

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

The gardening team excelled themselves once again with their annual spring bedding planting with wonderful designs and colour and as usual was the source of much positive comment from visitors to the Park.

The children's play module at the top of the Barrow Centre has been installed, and is proving to be a very popular attraction for the younger visitors to the Park

Our main financial commitment this year however remains our joint funding initiative of the long overdue refurbishment of the Orangery toilets, which is planned to be completed this coming winter.

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

## **Membership/Volunteers**

I am pleased to report that membership of the 'Friends' continues to be on the increase with a current membership of circa 800 which is the highest since the 'Friends' were formed in 1985. This reinforces the interest in the FOMECP and the support it provides for the Park.

Unfortunately, the increase in membership is not reflected in those wishing to support the Friends in a more practical way and regrettably the Committee structure remains at half strength and it continues to be very difficult to recruit volunteers to fill the vacant posts.

## **Events**

The Annual Classic Car Show and Summer Fayre was held on Sunday 6th August in conjunction with Cornwall Hospice Care in ideal weather conditions despite the stormy conditions of the previous day and in excess of 700 classic cars were on show on the day. It is difficult to ascertain the attendance on the day but am able to report that almost 3,000 travelled across to the Park on the Cremyll Ferry. 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 almost 100 people volunteers helped with the day. I would like to place on record particular thanks to the ATC (Saltash Branch) for their help on the day and HMS Raleigh cadets for their help with the pre event set up.

Once again the FOMECP assisted the Park staff with parking arrangements in the Deer Park for people wishing to view the National Firework Championships from this vantage point. A voluntary bucket collection was taken on entry towards funding projects in the Park which raised over £2,000

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

## **Friends Lodge**

The Friends Lodge which is run and managed by volunteers and acts as an information point and bookshop continues to be very popular. For many visitors to the Park particularly those using the Cremyll Ferry it is their first port of call and the only place in this area of the park where they are able to seek advice about where to go, what to do and to obtain literature to guide them on their journey through the Park. In addition the bookshop element of the lodge provide a very important income stream for the Friends and a good source of encouraging new membership.

## **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.

**Alan Drummond**  
**Chair - Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park**  
**November 2023**