

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH
MOUNT EDGCUMBE JOINT COMMITTEE**

Subject: Mount Edgumbe Review of 2011

Committee: Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Date: 24 February 2012

Joint Chair: Councillor Mrs Beer, Plymouth City Council
Councillor Trubody, Cornwall Council

Cabinet Members: Councillor Jordan, Plymouth City Council
Councillor German, Cornwall Council

CMT Member: Director for People, Plymouth City Council
Assistant Head of Service, Waste and Environment,
Cornwall Council

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Ref: IB/JC/02/12

Key Decision: No

Part: I

Executive Summary:

This report reviews the past year and informs members of House and Park usage, events and key work undertaken in the past year.

Corporate Plan 2011-2014:

Mount Edgumbe

Plymouth City Council

This report links to delivering the priorities within the Council's corporate plan particularly with regard to raising aspirations and providing value to communities.

Cornwall Council

Business Plan Immediate Priorities: Use of resources and performance management.

Environment, Planning and Economy Directorate Plan priorities:

Creating a Green Cornwall

Creating a better place to live

Delivering excellent services

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land**

None.

Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management and Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion:

None.

Recommendations and Reasons for Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the -

- i) Joint Committee note the report
- ii) Joint Committee formally thank the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe for their continued support.

Alternative Options Considered & Reasons for Recommended Action:

None.

Background Papers:

- i) Mount Edgcumbe events files.
- ii) Mount Edgcumbe diary.

Sign Off

Fin		Leg		HR		Corp Prop		IT	Strat Proc	
Cornwall County Council										

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report is a summary of some of the key activities that have been undertaken at Mount Edgcumbe over the past year.

2. Spring Flower Show 2011

- 2.1. The Cornwall Garden Societies Spring Flower Show is held on the first weekend in April at Boconnoc. As holder of the National Camellia Collection, Mount Edgcumbe exhibits Camellia's in the competition section of the show. For the sixth year in a row, Mount Edgcumbe won the Camellia Cup for most points in the Camellia section. We also had a stand at the show promoting Mount Edgcumbe and selling merchandise.
- 2.2. The 2012 show is being held on the weekend of 31 March/1 April. Mount Edgcumbe will be entering the competition classes again and having a promotional stand.

3. Mount Edgcumbe Events Programme

- 3.1. The Mount Edgcumbe events programme is split into two parts, January to June and July to December.
- 3.2. A varied programme of events, totalling around 40 are scheduled, ranging from Bushcraft days, Deer Walks, Camellia Walks, Murder Mystery evenings, Craft Workshops and the Christmas Fayre. The events are well supported and are targeted at different age groups.
- 3.3. The annual Classic Car Rally which is organised by the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and Cornwall Hospice Care was well attended with estimated visitor numbers between 12,500 to 15,000.
- 3.4. The 2011 Christmas Fayre was the best yet. The Barrow Centre was included this year with additional stalls in the Belvedere and entertainment in the courtyard. 4,100 people came through the doors over the two days of the Fayre.
- 3.5. Contingency Planning for the America's Cup Series held in the Sound was put in place, but few people came to Mount Edgcumbe.
- 3.6. Plymouth's Annual National Fireworks Championships again saw good numbers coming to watch the spectacle from Mount Edgcumbe.
- 3.7. The events programme for the first six months of 2012 is attached to this report.

4. Phytophthora ramorum Control

- 4.1. Work has continued to remove Rhododendron ponticum, (an invasive species that hosts the pathogen Phytophthora ramorum, commonly known as Sudden Oak Death), with no new cases of the disease being found.

5. Weddings

- 5.1. After a drop in wedding bookings in 2008.2009, 2011 saw a rise with 24 ceremonies being held at Mount Edgcumbe House.
- 5.2. 34 bookings have already been taken for 2012.

6. Visitor Numbers

- 6.1. The House opened, as usual, at the beginning of April and closed at the end of September, opening 5 days per week, Sunday to Thursday, 11am until 4.30pm.
- 6.2. 128 booked groups came to the House, of which, 85 were European, mainly German, but some Swiss and Austrian groups as well. These European groups visit Mount Edgcumbe as a direct result of the filming by a German company of the novels of Rosamund Pilcher, several of which have been filmed at Mount Edgcumbe.
- 6.3. Other visitors have totalled 7144 adults, 738 children and 455 school children/students.

7. Heritage Lottery Fund – Your Heritage Grant

- 7.1. A notable success in 2011 was the award of £41,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to conserve artefacts from the wreck of the Metta Catherina von Flensburg, a Danish Brigantine that foundered off of Mount Edgcumbe in the 18th century. The Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park have kindly donated £8,000 to this project, with the Metta Catherina Trust donating a further £3,000.
- 7.2. The project will run over two years and will encompass not only conservation and display of the artefacts found, but also have an educational theme and tell the story of the amateur divers who found her and pioneered underwater archaeology.

8. Formal Opening of the Relic Garden

- 8.1. In the summer, the Relic Garden was formally opened by the Co-Chairs. This garden was designed by our Foreman Gardener using redundant stone and garden ornaments that had over the years been abandoned around the Park. This was brought together and now forms an interesting feature in the Formal Gardens. The work was wholly funded by the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park who donated a very generous £17,000 to the project.

9. Park Usage by Organised Groups

- 9.1. Over the course of the year various groups use the Park for a range of activities. These have included organised running events, orienteering, sponsored walks and school visits. The figures given below are based on the information provided by users. Not every group books to use the facilities, nor do they always give definite numbers.
- 9.2. Orienteering
The Orienteering course was used on 27 occasions.
- 9.3. College/School/Youth Group Visits
There were 51 booked visits during the year. Not all groups provided numbers, but 30 did and their numbers totalled 3,523.

10. Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park

- 10.1. The importance of the Friends support cannot be over emphasised. As well as financial support for projects such as the Relic Garden and the Metta Catherina Project already mentioned and financial commitments to the new guide book and improvements in the Cremyll Shop area, they have provided the bulk of volunteers that have supported the Park in even greater numbers over the past year.
- 10.2. They have helped with the full range of activities at Mount Edgumbe, supporting events, particularly the Christmas Fayre which would not have been possible without their help with preparation, car parking and stewarding. Support to staff has been provided in the following areas of work:-
- (a) Administration
 - (b) Archival Work
 - (c) Stewarding
 - (d) Gardening
 - (e) General Estate work
 - (f) Rhododendron clearing
 - (g) Driving the Buggy
 - (h) Stewarding Events (manning stalls, car parking, preparing goods for sale)
 - (i) Buildings Maintenance
- 10.3. The volunteers who work with the gardeners have given 1,000 hours of their time during 2011.

11. Other Events held in the Park

- 11.1. As well as the events organised by ourselves and FOMECP, the following events were also held in the Park but organised by others during 2011.
- (a) Sealed Knot Event
 - (b) Land Rover Discovery Owners Club meet
 - (c) Military Vehicles Trust weekend.
 - (d) Faery Festival
 - (e) Caravan Club weekend meeting
 - (f) Caravan and Camping Club weekend meeting
 - (g) Motor Caravan Club weekend meeting

12. Restoration of the Ice House Bridge

- 12.1. The Ice House Bridge forms part of the main drive to Mount Edgumbe House. Historically, the bridge consisted of stone piers joined by wrought iron railings and topped with Coade Stone pineapples. The piers had fallen into disrepair and the wrought iron railings needed to be refurbished. The pineapples were restored some years ago, but kept in store.

Mount Edgumbe staff, working with a specialist stone mason carried out repairs and refurbishment and the pineapples were brought out of store and fixed onto the piers.

13. Recommendations

13.1. Officers recommend that the Joint Committee –

- (a) Note the report.
- (c) Formally thank the Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park for their financial and volunteer support during 2011.

2012 Events Leaflet

Edgcombe home, you could be in for a real treat with this expedition. Meeting on the terrace at the front of the house at 8pm, the walk will take approx. 2-3 hours and finish off with hot soup and cost £5.00 p.p. Please make sure that you wrap up warm and wear suitable footwear for the walk.

JUNE

Wednesday 6th – 12.30pm-2pm

Seashore Explorer

Join the rangers to explore the creatures of the deep, and not so deep here at Mount Edgcombe. Starting at 12.30pm the event will run across low tide until 2pm. Explore the huge amount of sea life that lives above and below the low water mark. The footing will be slippery so appropriate footwear and wet weather gear is a must for this event. Tickets £4.00 per child (all children must be accompanied by an adult max. 3 children per adult).

Thursday 7th – 11.30am-12.30pm

History and Heritage of the Earls Garden

Discover all about the beautiful Earls Garden here at Mount Edgcombe and what's hidden away in all the nooks and crannies. Starting at 11.30am the talk will last approximately 1 hour. Tickets cost £5.00 per person and should be booked in advance. Tickets also include entry to the House after the talk.

Saturday 9th – 10am-3pm

Family Bushcraft Day

Enjoy a family adventure with our experienced rangers learning all about the great outdoors. Learn how to build a shelter, light a fire without matches and even forage for food! All children must be accompanied by an adult with no more than 2 children per adult. Tickets are 1 adult + 1 child - £18 (11+7), 1 adult + 2 children £25 (11+7+7). Meet at Penlee Battery car park at 10am wearing suitable clothing and footwear, you should bring a packed lunch and drink with you.

Sunday 10th - 10am -1pm

From Rags to Riches - Introductory Workshop



Come and learn the age old craft of creating beautiful textiles for the home using rag rugging techniques. This is the time to make use of all those lovely bits of fabric and clothing that you no longer really need but can't bear to

part with.

All materials provided...please bring any special fabric scraps and fabric scissors if you have them...if not, don't worry... plenty to share! Cost £15.00 p.p.

Saturday 16th – 10am-4pm

Introduction to Photography Workshop

This is a chance for those interested but not necessarily very experienced in photography to make use of the picturesque grounds of Mount Edgcombe to gain some tips from photographer, Jess Maslen, on how to get the best out of your camera. A practical session will take place outside, weather permitting. Tickets cost £25.00 p.p.

Meeting at Barrow Park Centre at 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start. Bring a camera (either film or digital), a selection of lenses (for SLR cameras ONLY), a tripod (if you've got it) and an umbrella (just in case!). A light picnic lunch will be provided.

Saturday 30th – 10.30am-12.30pm

Dowsing for Beginners

Sceptical? Why not try out the ancient art of dowsing here at Mount Edgcombe and develop a new skill. Meeting on the terrace in front of Mount Edgcombe House at 10.30 the walk will last for approximately 2 hours and cost £4 per person and don't forget to bring you wire coat hangers!

Advance Booking

All events should be pre booked, please call 01752 822236

Creative Workshops

Small group numbers ensure time and space to develop your ideas to the full whether a beginner or more experienced artist. Booking is essential as minimum numbers are required to run the courses.

Outdoor Events

You will require suitable footwear and clothing.

The management reserves the right to cancel events at short notice.

Mount Edgcombe

Cremyll, Torpoint, Cornwall PL10 1HZ

Tel. 01752 822236

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www.mountedgcombe.gov.uk

Mount Edgcombe is jointly owned and managed by Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council

Events Diary

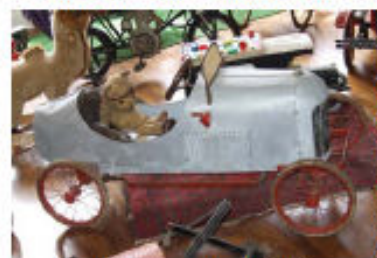
Mount
Edgcombe

January - June 2012

The Childhood Toy Collection

1st April - 30 Sept. at Mount Edgcumbe House

What is it that we find so comforting about that little teddy bear we've had since childhood with the ear hanging off



and its fur long gone? It reminds us of simpler times perhaps. So why not head for Mount Edgcumbe House and see Mike Cavanagh's delightful collection of childhood

toys from times gone by which is currently on loan to the Museum. See how children used to entertain themselves long before computer games were ever dreamt of.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 12th 10am-1pm

Accessorise with Felt Introductory Workshop

Use beautiful Merino Wool fibres to create a unique felted purse or small bag using the wet felting method. There will be an opportunity to experiment with colour blending using traditional carders, learn how to make pre felt and a felted button for your purse or bag. All materials provided...please bring plastic bag to carry wet items home! Cost £15.00 p.p.

Saturday 25th – 10.30am-12.30pm

Dowsing for Beginners

Sceptical? Why not try out the ancient art of dowsing here at Mount Edgcumbe and develop a new skill. Meeting on the terrace in front of the House tickets £4.00 p.p. and don't forget your wire coat hangers!

MARCH

Saturday 3rd & Wednesday 7th – 11am-1pm

Camellia Walk

This is an opportunity to join the Curator of the National Camellia Collection, held by Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, on a conducted tour of the collection that currently numbers approximately 1,000 cultivars. Meeting at Dry Walk Car Park tickets costs £4.00 p.p. Suitable walking shoes and clothing is a must on this outdoor adventure.

Sunday 18th – 10.30am-12pm

British Deer Talk

If you want to learn more about these majestic animals then this is the talk for you. You can also learn about the origins of the Deer Park at Mount Edgcumbe. Join us for this fascinating talk and slideshow in the Belvedere Suite at The Barrow Park Centre, cost £5.00 p.p.

APRIL

Sunday 8th – 10am-1pm

Introduction to Colourful Corsages Workshop

An introduction to needlefelting. No sewing experience necessary!! Using a wonderful selection of coloured Merino Wool fibres and a small barbed needle we will create beautiful, one of a kind corsage, buttons and more. All materials provided...please bring buttons or beads, needle and thread to decorate corsage if required. Cost £15.00 p.p.

Wednesday 11th – 2pm-3.30pm

Spring Garden Tour



Take a tour of our Grade I listed gardens and historic buildings while they are surrounded by beautiful spring blooms. Tickets cost £4.00 per person and should be booked in advance.

Saturday 14th - 7pm-10.30pm

Murder Mystery Evening

Things that go bump in the night... for something a little more exciting why not join the Candlelight Theatre Company here at Mount Edgcumbe for cocktails, a 3 course themed dinner (BYOB) and.... murder most horrid!

Meet at Mount Edgcumbe for cocktails at 7pm and join your fellow sleuths and plan how you're going to solve the murder. Tickets cost £39.95 p.p., groups welcome.

Thursday 26th – 11.30am-12.30pm

Back to the Tudors

Discover why Mount Edgcumbe House was so modern and unique when it was built. Look at the collections to find out more about this fascinating period in history. Tickets cost £5.00 p.p. and include entry to the House and Earls Garden on the day.

MAY

Saturday 5th – 10am-4pm

Introduction to Painting – Louise Courtneil

This is a fantastic opportunity to work with local artist Louise Courtneil to capture some of Cornwall's most beautiful landscape in watercolours, oils or acrylics. Louise will work with you throughout the day giving advice, tips on your use of materials and hints on the painting techniques that have made her such a popular artist.

Meeting at Barn Pool Picnic area at 9.45am for a 10am start the course will run until 4 pm and costs £25.00 p.p. You should bring all your own equipment for your class. A light picnic lunch will be provided during the day. Places are strictly limited.

Saturday 12th – 4.30am-7am

Dawn Chorus

Awaken to the delights of the avian world here at Mount Edgcumbe. Join our expert guide to experience the amazing sounds of dawn birdsong within the gardens of the estate. Meeting at Barrow Car Park at 4:30am, the walk will take approximately 2 1/2 hours and finish off with breakfast and cost £6.50 p.p. Suitable walking shoes and warm clothing is a must, and don't forget the binoculars!

Saturday 19th & Wednesday 23rd 10.30am-12pm

Tubs and Planters Workshop

Come along and talk to the experts for all those handy hints and tips. Bring your favourite tubs and baskets along and we will have all the plants, compost etc to purchase on site at a reduced rate. There will be a demonstration by our gardening expert, followed by tea and coffee before you get your hands dirty and create your own masterpiece. Costs £5.00 p.p.

Sunday 20th – 11.30am-12.30pm

Working for 'Lordy'

An introduction to life 'below stairs' and also on the estate at Mount Edgcumbe. Brought to life with photos and stories from the past. Tickets cost £5.00 p.p. and include entry to the House and Earls Garden on the day.

Saturday 26th – 8pm-10.30pm

Going Bats at Mount Edgcumbe

Join us for a nocturnal adventure and let our colonies of bats be your guide. With rare species calling Mount