

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Mount Edgumbe Review 2013-2014
Committee: Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee
Date: 28 February 2014
Joint Chair: Councillor Peter Smith, Plymouth City Council/
Councillor Hannaford Cornwall Council
Cabinet Members: Councillor Peter Smith Plymouth City Council/
Councillor Hannaford, Cornwall Council
CMT Member: Strategic Director for Place

Author: Ian Berry, Park Manager
Contact: tel: 01752 822236
email: ian.berry@plymouth.gov.uk

Ref: ME
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Purpose of the Report

This report review key activities during the 2013-2014 year.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:

Plymouth City Council

This report links to delivering the priorities within the Councils 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:

- (a) Creating a Green Cornwall
- (b) Creating a better place to live
- (c) Delivering excellent services

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

Not applicable.

**Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and
Safety and Risk Management:**

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity:

Not applicable.

Recommendations and Reasons for Recommended Action:

Members note the report.

Alternative Options Considered and Reasons for Recommended Action:

Not applicable.

Published work/information:

Not applicable.

Background papers:

Not applicable.

Sign Off

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	HR	N/A	AM	N/A	IT	N/A
Cornwall Council			N/A						

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report gives a review of the 2013/2104 season and covers Park usage, events, visitor surveys and general information about the year.

2. Events

- 2.1. As well as our events programme of walks, talks and workshops, a number of successful major events have been held at Mount Edgcumbe, culminating in the Christmas Fayre.
- 2.2. The key events have been:
 - 2.2.1. The Three Wishes Faery Festival
 - 2.2.2. Classic Car Rally
 - 2.2.3. Cornwall Military Vehicles Trust Annual Rally
- 2.3. These three events were organised by third parties with support from Mount Edgcumbe. We are working with all three parties to build on the success of these events.
- 2.4. The 2013 Christmas Fayre was the most successful to date; 6,004 people came through the door which was 1,000 more than last year. The footprint and range of activities offered was increased and included Living Statues, Dr Who and a Dalek, wood turners, a magic lantern show and musical entertainment.
- 2.5. There were 80 stallholders selling a range of crafts and food.
- 2.6. Local businesses were given the opportunity to promote themselves and stall holders from Plymouth Pannier Market joined the Fayre for the first time.
- 2.7. As well as the usual advertising, TV advertising was used which had a noticeable impact.
- 2.8. Feedback from the public has been positive, particularly with regard to the increase in children's activities and entertainment.

3. Filming in the Park

- 3.1. Mike Leigh Turner film, David Dimbleby, Two Hungry Sailors.

4. General Park Usage

- 4.1. Orienteering. The orienteering course was used by 30 organised groups with approximately 600 participants.
- 4.2. Talks; five external talks were given.

- 4.3. School Use; 29 individual schools booked to use the Park for a range of activities. They brought at least 2000 students to the Park. As is the case every year, not every school informs us that they are visiting, so the actual numbers of schools and students using the Park are much greater.
- 4.4. Other Use; 39 other groups mainly Charities carrying out sponsored walks used the Park.

5. Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park

- 5.1. Park staff continue to work closely with the Friends. The Friends have sponsored the following works this year:-
 - 5.1.1. Repairs to the Shell Seat - £3,500
 - 5.1.2. The installation of the play area in the Cremyll Shop garden - £9,206
 - 5.1.3. Purchase of a tractor - £19,500
 - 5.1.4. Fountain Pump - £672
 - 5.1.5. Camellia bulbs - £3,616
- 5.2. The Friends of Mount Edgcumbe have used Mount Edgcumbe for a variety of fund raising events. These have included:-
 - 5.2.1. Lunch in Marquee
 - 5.2.2. Curry Lunch in the Marquee
 - 5.2.3. Halloween Event
 - 5.2.4. Gilbert & Sullivan Concert
 - 5.2.5. Black Tie Dinner

6. Volunteers

- 6.1. Our use of volunteers has continued to grow. In addition to local volunteers, we have had three placements from Europe who have worked full time with the gardeners and rangers. Their presence has been invaluable and a great help to staff.
- 6.2. We now have 55 volunteers on our books who work in a variety of jobs including gardens, park, research, education, stewarding, admin and bus driving.
- 6.3. Before the start of the season we had reviewed how volunteers are looked after. As a result, volunteer handbooks were revised, a more robust recruitment process introduced and a thorough induction process implemented. At the start and end of the season a staff and volunteer meeting was held. We now have one point of contact for a volunteer, who is herself a volunteer. This person works closely with us to ensure the system works.

7. Weddings

7.1. Wedding and reception bookings are slightly down on the previous year.

Year	Weddings	Orangery	Marquees
Apr 2012 – Mar 2013	35	25	1
Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	27	23	3

7.2. Meetings and Conferences

Room Hire

Date	Client	Facilities	Extras
11 May 2013	Karen Osbourn – Naming Ceremony	Belvedere 1/2 day hire - £250	
15 May 2013	PCC	Folly 1/2 day hire for 9 pax £150	Tea/Coffe on arrival @ £1.50 p.
04 June 2013	Peninsula Arts Plymouth University	Folly 1/2 day hire for 10 pax - £150	Tea/Coffee/Juice & Pasty @ £3 + Tea/Coffee/Juice @ £2
27 June 2013	Cornwall Care	Folly full day hire - £300	Tea/Coffee on call off
19 September 2013	Marie Curie	Folly 1/2 day hire £150	Tea/Coffee on arrival @ £1.50 p. + Light lunch @ £7.95p.p.
16 October 2013	CHAT	Great Hall	
October Half Term	Drawn to the Valley	Belvedere – 10 day hire £850	
30 October 2013	Plymouth University	Belvedere 1/2 day hire £250	
29 November 2013	RenewableUK	Great Hall/Marquee £1500	Tea/Coffee & Biscuits at 60x£2

Day Delegate Hire

Date	Client	Facilities	Extras
27 February 2013	Plymouth Cabinet Members	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
23 April 2013	Highfields Awarding Body for Compliance (Doncaster)	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
12 July 2013	Plymouth University	Silver Day Delegate Marquee	Belvedere & Folly
25 July 2013	PCC Green Infrastructure and Street Scene	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
5 and 6 September 2013	Plymouth University – International Conference	Silver Day Delegate Marquee + Drinks Reception	Belvedere (inc)
26 and 27 September 2013	PCAD – International Making Futures Conference	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	Folly, House and Marquee
11 October 2013	PCC Learning and Development	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
22 October 2013	PCC Learning and Development	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
23 October 2013	DCH Group	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	Octagon
26 November 2013	PCC Learning and Development	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
27 November 2013	PCC Learning and Development	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
10 December 2013	PCC Learning and Development	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
28 January 2014	PCC Learning and Development	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
7 January 2014	PCC Learning and Development	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	
11 February 2014	PCC Learning and Development	Bronze Day Delegate Belvedere	

8. Adverse Weather Conditions

- 8.1. Mount Edgcombe has not been immune to the adverse weather that has been experienced throughout the year.
- 8.2. Buildings have not suffered but the Italian Garden has flooded. This was caused by high spring tides backed by strong winds and heavy rain.

- 8.3. The biggest impact of the storms has been the effect on trees and woodland. At least 100 mature trees have blocked footpaths. Efforts to clear them are being hampered by wet ground and continuing high winds and heavy rain.

9. Metta Catharina Exhibition

- 9.1. Members will recall that this exhibition of the story of the wreck of the Metta Catharina was supported by HLF, FOMECP and The Metta Catharina Trust and opened at the beginning of this season.
- 9.2. The exhibition was officially launched by the television presenter Monty Halls in June and generated a significant amount of publicity. We will continue to run the exhibition through the 2014 season.

10. Higher Level Stewardship

- 10.1. In October 2013 197.91ha of parkland was entered into a High Level Stewardship Agreement through Natural England. This is a 10 year Management Parkland Plan and enables the Park to claim £26,853.20 annual management payment for each year of the 10 year agreement.
- 10.2. Part of the project requires the Park to produce a Conservation Plan. The aim of this report is to pull all the previous reports, plans and any other relevant information into a single usable plan. Once this report is produced it will enable the Park to access around £425,000 of capital grant for the restoration of historic features within the Park. This Conservation Plan would also be used for any future Heritage Lottery Bid.

11. Recommendations and Reasons for Recommended Action

- 11.1. That members note the report.