

Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park Update Report July 2016



Mount
Edgcumbe
Britain's historic park by the sea

Committee Changes

At the AGM in February Gordon Crocker retired after 15 consecutive years as chairman and was roundly thanked for his guidance and diligence in carrying out the task, including acting as the link between The Friends and the Park Management.

Gordon has been replaced by Neil Rugg, who has served on the Committee for the last 30 years.

Membership

Membership is open to all who wish to support and assist the Park in preserving, maintaining and enhancing the amenities available for the benefit of all users.

Since the last Joint Committee meeting the number of members has increased by 32 to 568 and while this constitutes a minor percentage of those visiting the Park the input from the members in financial and practical terms is significant.

Financial Support

Since November 2015 The Friends have financed (at a cost of £3,990) the statuary and garden preparation works for the 500th Anniversary of the enclosure of the Deer Park in the area adjacent to the Garage at the Barrow Centre. The project was opened in December by the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe and has been very well received by the public. The Friends investigated various forms of statuary by different artists and were pleased to be able to select and commission the Park's resident blacksmith, Twisted Metal Art, to undertake the fabrication.

To celebrate Queen Elizabeth the Second's 90th birthday The Friends have agreed to fund, up to a maximum of £20,000, the creation of a garden on the route between the House and the Barrow Centre.

The Friends have continued to provide funding (£3,000) for the Spring Bedding plants in the Formal Gardens.

To enhance the health and well-being of visitors and staff The Friends have funded the provision of defibrillators at a cost of £250.

Practical Support

People join The Friends because they care about the Park and our aim is to persuade more of the members to join the ranks of those who volunteer to help in a practical way. The majority of volunteers are members of The Friends and they drive the buggies, act as house stewards, assist the gardeners and rangers, make the costumes for the 'dressing up' room in the House, provide traffic management advice and have assisted in the newly created apiary.

The Friends have provided volunteers to assist in the running of the Christmas Fayre, Green Man Event and Fairy Festival so far this year and will be assisting in the Park at the Firework Championships. The Friends have built up and maintain a collection of over 50 highway direction and parking signs which are a necessary adjunct to the running of major events.

World War I Project

The volunteers from The Friends membership have successfully completed to time the Heritage Lottery Fund project 'World War One: Then and Now', to research life on the Mount Edgcumbe Estate in the years leading up to the Great War and the impact of the war on the estate.

A precis of the large amount of information discovered and collated has been presented in an interactive display with photos, text and copies of important documents in the Sequoyah Room in the House. Associated with this is a 'revolving' display of old photographs. Full documentation of the 'history' uncovered is contained on a separate laptop computer for access by scholars and anyone expressing a desire to view it.

Social Events

The Friends aim to provide an annual programme of social events catering for a wide range of tastes and ages. Since November 2015 we have held a 'Black Tie' dinner in the House and a very successful Easter Egg Hunt which attracted 750 child entrants plus family members. The attendance was 50% higher than the previous year and raised over £1,600. Equally importantly will be the fact that the event will have introduced first time visitors to the Park. The next event will be the Summer Fayre and Classic Car Show on 7th August where it is hoped the Park will be full of visitors enjoying the day.