

The Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park

Report to the Joint Committee, 28 July 2017

Committee Changes

At the AGM in March Val Horsley retired after 13 consecutive years as treasurer and was roundly thanked for her guidance and diligence in carrying out the task.

Val has been replaced by Tony Hutchings.

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.

The number of members currently stands at 587 and year on year we sign up more members than we lose. While the total constitutes a minor percentage of those visiting the Park the input from the members in financial and practical terms is significant.

Financial Support

Committee Members attended the official opening of the Knot Garden, financed by The Friends as reported previously.

Since November 2016 The Friends have agreed to finance the repairs to the pond in the French Garden up to £5,000 and £10,000 for the first step in securing a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for repairs to the English Garden House.

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

The above bring the total donated to The Park to over £250,000.

The Friends have passed into the ownership of The Park all of the equipment donated to them by the Liskeard Model Society to enable the setting up of the Mount Edgcumbe Railway.

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 and Green Man Event 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.

Social Events

The Friends aim to provide an annual programme of social events catering for a wide range of tastes and ages. Since November 2016 we have held a Choral Concert and a 'Black Tie' dinner in the House and a very successful Easter Egg Hunt which attracted 900+ child entrants plus family members. The attendance was higher again than the previous year and raised over £2,300. 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 6th August where it is hoped the Park will be full of visitors enjoying the day.

Miscellaneous

The Friends are currently carrying out a thorough review of its organisation and activities to ensure compliance with the updated requirements of the Charity Commission.