

**The Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park**  
**Report to the Joint Committee, 24 November 2017**

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 641 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. Membership fees will increase in 2018.

Financial Support

Due to breakdowns over the season, The Friends continue to investigate options for a replacement buggy. A recent trial of a battery powered vehicle proved it to be unsuited for all day operation up and down the hill between Cremyll and the House.

The current total donated to The Park stands at £312,245.

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 provided volunteers to assist in the running of the Military Vehicles Trust Event, the parking at Maker for the Firework Championships and access to the Landrover Discovery annual tour. The Friends helped to provide assistance and hospitality to the delegates of the Gardens Trust Conference in their tour around the Park and subsequent dinner in September. We were warmly thanked by the organisers for our contribution to a successful day.

Social Events

The Friends aim to provide an annual programme of social events catering for a wide range of tastes and ages. Since July 2017 we have organised a successful Halloween Trail which attracted 386 child entrants plus family members, giving a total of around 1000 visitors to the Park. From available data it is estimated that around 60% travelled to and from the event via the Cremyll Ferry.

Storm Brian forced the postponement of the annual Curry Lunch from October to early November and unfortunately resulted in a drop in attendance and corresponding income. Nevertheless as always it was an enjoyable event.

Our major fund raising event, the Summer Fayre/Classic Car Show, held in August, attracted the largest number of entrants and visitors so far with an estimated attendance of around 12,000. It will have made

a good profit for the Friends and our partner, Cornwall Hospice Care. The response from those attending was that they had thoroughly enjoyed the day. A follow-up meeting was held in November attended by members of the organising committee, members of the Local Safety Advisory Group and representatives of the Police. At the meeting the police and Cornwall Council representatives reported that they had had received no feedback from the public. The representative from Maker-with-Rame Parish Council reported one instance of a constituent being delayed by traffic and The Friends reported the receipt of 3 emails from visitors concerning the length of time taken to get to the event. The scale of the event means that it is inevitable that there will be a degree of congestion in the local area on one day of the year. To balance this it is an event that the local population can enjoy on their doorstep and several local charities benefit from having a reduced rate for their stall and have 1000's of customers from whom they can raise money for their good causes. The Hospice is there to cater for the needs of the residents of South East Cornwall and like the Park requires additional sources of funding to keep it operational. The Friends/Hospice have carried out their own review of the event and are considering a number of measures to reduce the impact on the road network. These will be discussed with the Police and Cornwall Council before the end of January.

Running an event of this size incurs a significant upfront cost which needs to be paid regardless of the weather on the day and the number of persons attending. The Friends are very aware that the margin between profit and loss is finite and any insistence on expensive additional measures potentially puts the event at risk of cancellation.

To put the importance of the Summer Fayre into context the income raised from this single event is 35 times higher than that achieved at the Halloween event, or in other words we would have to hold 35 small events in a year in order to maintain the same level of income. While we can cajole 60 or so volunteers to help run the Summer Fayre it would be impossible for us to persuade 20 volunteers to turn out 35 times in a year.

#### Miscellaneous

The Committee has prepared General, Financial, Reserves and Data Protection policy documents to demonstrate that its organisation and activities comply with the updated requirements of the Charity Commission. These will be presented to our AGM in March for approval by the members.