

The Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park



Overlooking Drake's Island from Mt Edgcumbe Park

Journal No. 105 - Summer 2020

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Registered Charity
No. 295261

Chairman's Notes

Nicola Cull

Hello Friends!

When I last wrote an introduction to the newsletter we were amid lockdown. As many of you know already, the Park remained open all of that time to for much-needed access to fresh air, exercise, and much needed outside green space. It was lovely to see so many people there – following the social distancing guidelines – and enjoying their daily exercise. As lockdown eases, there's a sense of rediscovery for many visitors old and new. We're also pleased to see that the traders are all open – and best of all, they are very happy to give our members generous discounts. So, don't forget your card when you visit. For current discounts on offer see page 23.

Lockdown gave the committee time to stand back and think about the future of the Park and how the charity can help and support. As you know, our funding has provided all kinds of support (from plants and trees to tractors, tools, and buggies). As government funding reduces we're working alongside the Park management to ensure the Park is preserved and enhanced for future generations to enjoy.

Much of the funding set aside for 2020 projects will be carried over into next year. We're hoping that in our next Journal we'll be able to confirm our funding plans for 2021. More detail on the current funds available is provided in the Treasurer's update on page 5.

For those of you who are, like me, trying to catch up with the latest technology, I have found that you can use your iPhone to scan the QR codes in restaurants, information areas and last, but by far not the least, for access to the Friends of Mt Edgcumbe website.

Nicola above has pointed to the Visitor Survey to be found on the back page but you can also access all the other delights of our website by scanning the code here.

"I don't have that facility on my phone" I can hear you saying. Well fear not. In your web access area (try Google) type in "free QR App" and then click on "Install" This should give you

As a member of the friends, we know you care deeply about the future of the Park so please make sure you complete our survey. You'll find it on our website



www.fomecp.org.ok and you can use the QR code on the back page. You will also find a link to it on our new Facebook page by searching Mount Edgcumbe friends.

We do hope you have been able to visit this year, and if not, we will hopefully see you in the coming months.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

all you need to read the code that you want. If I can do it then you shouldn't have any problem.
Good luck.



Ed

Situations Vacant remain as below, but note that the house is unlikely to be open again this year. David would encourage anyone interested to put their name forward for the 2021 season particularly for house stewards or buggy drivers

House Volunteers

Meet and greet our visitors, make them welcome, show them the House, explain its history, steward the exhibitions, help them dress up and take their photographs: if you enjoy meeting people and want to learn more then contact David on 01752 822236

The Friends' Bookshop and Information Point

Anne and Steve Creese would love to hear from you if you can spare time to man the Friends' Lodge, bookshop and information point. We have now opened our new bookshop and the more volunteers we have, the more opening hours we can provide—so if you enjoy meeting people, this might be just the job for you. Contact details p23

Plymouth and the Blitz

David and Chris are working with Linda Horsfield and Pirkko to feature an exhibition in the House. Whilst there is plenty of info re the "main event" they are looking for personal and social historic facts. Local involvement with ARP, Civil Defence, Auxiliary Fire Service, Women's Voluntary Service, etc. If you have personal recollections or letters relating to WWII then please contact David on 01752 822236 or Chris on chris.burton@plymouth.gov.uk

Volunteer buggy drivers

We could still do with more. We have two buggies, and urgently need additional drivers to ensure that our younger and older visitors can enjoy the Park to its fullest extent. Contact David on 01752 822236

House Stewards

The house is always looking for new volunteers to be trained up as House Stewards to be trained for the "Grand Tour"

Anyone interested should contact David Marshall

01752 822236

Committee Members

If you have some expertise that you feel would help in the running of The Friends then please contact either the Chair or Secretary.
Contact details can be found on page 23 or on our website www.fomecp.org

Mt Edgcombe Railway and Model Society

Volunteers needed to help build and operate the new Mount Edgcombe Railway and Model Society's outdoor miniature ride-on railway and indoor model layouts. Current operating days are Thursdays and Sundays: if you can spare some enjoyable time contact John on 01752 822657 or email polhawn@btinternet.com

Membership Report

Ged Edgcombe

Hello to you all, and I hope you are all keeping safe and healthy. Well, what a year this has turned out to be – everything has just been turned upside down, and just when we started to see some light at the end of the tunnel - and an easing of some of the lockdown measures – now all we hear is second wave, more lockdowns etc. Unfortunately, we will probably have to just grin and bear it and keep everything crossed and hope that next year is better than this one has been.

At this time of year, myself and the other committee members who provide a report in the journal would be waxing lyrical about how good the Easter Egg Hunt and Green Man events were, and also that we had another bumper year (forgive the pun!) at the annual Car Rally. Sadly, not this year – the corona virus has stopped all those events and also forced us to close our lodge – and in doing so, deprived us all of some fantastic events, the chance to raise some much needed money to support the Park and also increase our membership numbers. Again, everything crossed in the hope that next year will be better!!

In my last report, I gave a slightly downbeat assessment on our membership figures – sorry about that! The main reason for this was directly related to the corona virus situation and the loss of a vital source of new members because of the

closure of our lodge and the cancellation of all events in the Park. At the time of the last report in April, we had 574 members – our 2019 year-end figure was 624 – and as of this reporting period we now have 585 members. I am

reasonably certain that we will end the year with a comparatively low membership number, not surprising given the current situation, but folks I am ever the optimist, and as I have said in the last 2 paragraphs (final time – I promise) keep everything crossed and hope that next year will be better!!

Notwithstanding all the gloom and doom, there are some tiny signs that things are changing for the better; the most important from the Friends' perspective is that we have been able to re-open the lodge – albeit on a limited basis (check our website for details) – which allows us to meet with the public once again and encourage them to join the Friends, make a donation or buy a book at an extremely reasonable price. So on that note, enjoy the rest of the summer as best you can and keep safe.



Editorial

Mike Gabb wrote to me after the publication of the last Journal saying he had enjoyed the article on Sir Richard Eggecombe but spotted my error in publishing a picture of the “wrong” King James.

As he rightly says “..I checked it out and found that it was James Stuart (The Old Pretender, 1688-1766) pictured, not James III of Scotland (died 1488).

I am here publishing what I hope is the correct James.

Tony Hutchings



Treasurers Report

Gill Bunnell

It won't take much to work out that very little has changed since I wrote my report in the Spring journal. The full force of Covid-19 has meant that everything has been on hold for the Friends, although I know that everybody I come in contact with is very grateful that the Rame peninsula seems to have been spared the worst of it. I personally can live with the charity having little income as long as it means people remain healthy.

Now is a good time to talk about Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the value of purchases to the Friends if you sign up to Amazon Smile and make your purchase through the Smile website. As more and more of us turn to online shopping now, it would really help the Friends to regain some of their lost income – at no cost to yourselves!

To get going, either download the Amazon Smile App, or register at smile.amazon.co.uk and make sure you choose the Friends of Mount

Edgcombe Country Park as your charity. Every time you shop with Amazon, use their smile.amazon.co.uk website instead of the usual one (you can get the same goods on it), and the donation will be automatic. Amazon send us the money every quarter as long as we have accrued £5 or more.



So far we have 29 people signed up and have received £29.42 from Amazon – let's see if we can get to 100 and £100 by the end of the year!

I hope you stay well and safe, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on treasurer@fomecp.org.uk

The details below come direct from Amazon:



Now delivering groceries

Amazon Smile customers can now support The Friends of Mount Edgcombe Country Park in the Amazon shopping app on iPhones and Android phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

- 1 Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
- 2 Go to the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and go to "settings"
- 3 Tap "Amazon Smile" and follow the online instructions to complete the process

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app you can use the following link:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/f.html?
C=25PJ3L3N2I7AB&K=32SCZ8DIMS079&M=urn:rtn:msg:202007280803022077e26fc8384
bcebd55784df940p0eu&R=CWN8B2OGS7TU&T=C&U=https%3A%2F%
2Fsmile.amazon.co.uk%2Ffb%3Fnode%3D17337655031%26ref_%
3Dpe_4117511_491346141&H=TQAQADKUQLDPRDXDZN6PB0I1FJCA&ref_=pe_4117511
491346141](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/f.html?C=25PJ3L3N2I7AB&K=32SCZ8DIMS079&M=urn:rtn:msg:202007280803022077e26fc8384bcebd55784df940p0eu&R=CWN8B2OGS7TU&T=C&U=https%3A%2F%2Fsmile.amazon.co.uk%2Ffb%3Fnode%3D17337655031%26ref%3Dpe_4117511_491346141&H=TQAQADKUQLDPRDXDZN6PB0I1FJCA&ref_=pe_4117511_491346141)

New members required for your committee

Neil Rugg

The numbers of ordinary committee members has fallen to four with the retirement of Nigel Bruce-Robertson. We now have six vacancies and while you might think that in these strange times your committee hasn't got anything to do the reverse is the case. Our charity now has the more difficult problems of how to keep the membership activated and how to replace the funding lost from the enforced closure of the Lodge and now the loss of our unofficial social secretary.

Nigel served as a committee member for over 8 years in which time he regularly assisted me on the day of the annual Car Show, the Winter Wonderland and assisted the Park by driving the shuttle bus at the Christmas Fairs. In partnership with Stephanie he organised our well attended and very enjoyable events including 11 lunches and teas, 5 formal dinners, 3 boat trips and 2 coach trips. They also acted as stewards at the Easter and Halloween children's events. On your behalf I thank Nigel and Stephanie for their efforts and the pleasure they have provided to the participants.

While it might be tempting to think that the remaining ordinary committee members could take on Nigel's role they are not exactly sitting around with nothing to do. Anne is organising the opening of the Lodge and staffing of it thereafter, Alan is assisting Carol with secretarial duties, Tony has the role of editor and I spend over half the year on the car show, which although was cancelled this year was ready to go and work will start soon on next year's event.

This is a plea therefore for volunteers to come forward and lend a hand. As much advice and help as you might require will be freely given. You would not have to continue with the past format of events but bring your own ideas if you wish. If you don't fancy organising events why not become a committee member just to ease the load on the rest of us and help us go forward in the right direction.

The loss of income to the Park, through the temporary closure of businesses and holiday lets, will make their financial situation even more difficult and a strong Friends organisation will be vital in supporting it to be sympathetically treated by the local authorities.



Nigel in contemplative mood whilst helping to prepare the ground for installation of Lambert Lodge

Colour in the Park



Captain Blake's Retreat

Splendid Isolation in an area of outstanding natural beauty



Overlooking the expanse of Whitsand Bay, this luxury getaway is the latest holiday property at Mount Edgcombe Country Park on The Rame Peninsula.

Captain Blake's Retreat is nestled next to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). A short walk from the parking area, the retreat offers amazing views across the entire bay. Standing on the cliff high above the beautiful beach, with no near neighbours the breath-taking views of the sea and sky that stretch as far as the eye can see.

For further information about the holiday cottages at Mount Edgcombe, or to make a booking, please contact Classic Cottages.

Website: – www.classic.co.uk Telephone: – 01326 555555

So who was Captain Blake?

Robert Blake, better known as Admiral Blake, was born in 1598.

In a letter written to Admiral Sir John Jervis by Lord Nelson he ranked Robert Blake as one of the greatest Naval Generals ever known, even when compared with his own reputation.

Robert Blake was the first son of thirteen children born to Humphrey and Sara Blake. After attending Bridgwater Grammar School for boys

he went up to Wadham College, Oxford.

After his departure from university in 1625 he was believed to have been engaged in trade in the Netherlands. He returned to Bridgwater after the death of his mother in 1638 and he decided to stand for parliament being elected as a member in 1640. When the Civil War broke out Blake began his military career on the side of the parliamentarians despite having no substantial experience of military or naval matters.

After joining the New Model Army as a Captain in Alexander Popham's regiment, Blake distinguished himself at the Siege of Bristol in July 1643 and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He took a leading role in the Siege of Lyme Regis in April 1644 and was duly promoted to a full Colonel. He then earned himself national recognition during the siege of Taunton in 1645 and then succeeded in winning the siege of Dunster in November of the same year.

In 1649 Blake transferred to the Parliamentary



Navy with the title of General at Sea. The term "Admiral" was not used by the Parliamentary Navy, his actual rank of General at Sea combined the role of Admiral and Commissioner of the Navy.

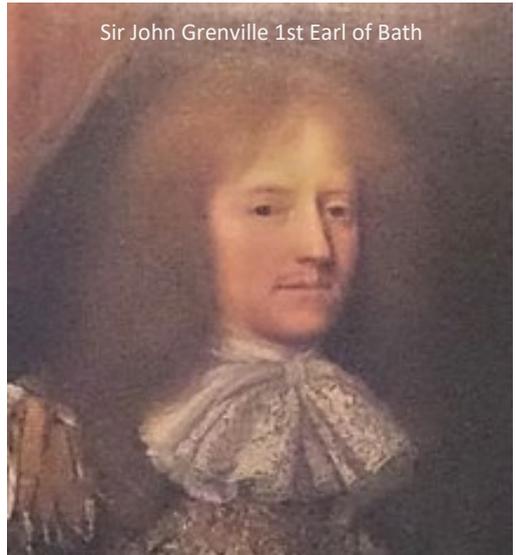
In 1651 he led a force to successfully remove the Royalist, Sir John Grenville from the Scilly Isles, where he had been appointed Governor by Charles II after a local rebellion.

Blake is often referred to as the "Father of the Royal Navy". As well as being largely responsible for building the largest navy the country had ever known, from a few tens of ships to well over a hundred, he was the first to keep a fleet at sea over winter. He also produced the navy's first ever set of rules and regulations, *The Laws of War* and *Ordinances of the Sea*, the first version of which, containing 20 provisions, was passed by the House of Commons on 5th March 1649, with a printed version published in 1652.

Blake developed new techniques to conduct blockades and landings; his *Sailing Instructions* and *Fighting Instructions*, issued by the Generals at Sea on 29th March 1653, are the first known instructions to be written in any language to adopt the use of single line ahead battle formation. These were major overhauls of naval tactics written whilst he was recovering from injury in 1653, and were the foundation of English naval tactics in the Age of Sail. In the year before his death in 1656, he was appointed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

On 11th January 1649 Prince Rupert of the Rhine led eight undermanned ships to Kinsale in Ireland in an attempt to prevent the Parliamentarians taking Ireland from the Royalists. Blake blockaded Rupert's fleet in Kinsale from 22nd May, allowing Oliver Cromwell to land at Dublin on 15th August. Blake was driven off by a storm in October and Rupert escaped via Spain to Lisbon, where he had expanded his fleet to 13 ships. Blake put to sea with 12 ships in February 1650 and dropped anchor off Lisbon in an attempt to persuade the Portuguese King to expel Rupert. After two months the king decided to back Rupert. Blake was joined by another four warships commanded by Edward Popham who brought authority to go to war with Portugal.

Rupert twice failed to break the blockade, which was finally raised after Blake sailed for Cadiz with seven ships he had captured after a three hour engagement with 23 ships of the Portuguese fleet. Blake re-engaged with Rupert, now with six ships, on 3rd November near Malaga, capturing one ship. Two days later Rupert's other ships in the area were driven ashore attempting to



escape from Cartagena, securing Parliamentary supremacy at sea, and the recognition of the Parliamentary government by many European states. Parliament voted Blake £1,000 by way of thanks in February 1651. In June of the same year Blake captured the Isles of Scilly, the last outpost of the Royalist navy, for which he again received Parliament's thanks. Soon afterwards he was made a member of the Council of State.

Thanks to its command of the sea, the fleet was able to supply Cromwell's army with provisions as it successfully marched on Scotland. By the end of 1652 the various English colonies in the Americas had also been secured.

First Anglo-Dutch War

The War proper started after a skirmish between the Dutch Fleet of Maarten Tromp and Blake off Folkestone on 29th May 1652. In June there was a campaign of the English against the Dutch East Indies, Baltic and fishing trades by Blake, in command of around 60 ships. On 5th October 1652 Dutch Vice-Admiral Witte Corneliszoon de With, whom, underestimating the strength of the English, attempted to attack Blake, but due to the weather it was Blake who attacked on 8th October 1652 in the Battle of the Kentish Knock, sending de With back to the Netherlands in defeat.

The English were severely defeated in the Battle of Dungeness and the Battle of Leghorn, due to the English Parliament having split Blake's forces thinking that they had overall superiority at sea. Following these defeats Blake demanded that the

Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty enact major reforms. They complied by, among other things, enacting Articles of War to reinforce the authority of an admiral over his captains. Blake then sailed with around 75 ships to disrupt Channel shipping, engaging Tromp with a similar fleet in the Battle of Portland from 28th February to 2nd March 1653 when Tromp escaped with his convoy under cover of darkness.

At the Battle of Gabbard on 12th and 13th June 1653 Blake reinforced the ships of Generals Richard Deane and George Monck and decisively defeated the Dutch fleet, sinking or capturing 17 ships without losing one. Now also the North Sea was brought under English control, and the Dutch fleet was blockaded in various ports until the Battle of Scheveningen, where Tromp was killed.

In April 1655 Blake was sent to the Mediterranean again to extract compensation from the piratical states that had been attacking English shipping. The Dey of Tunis refused compensation, and with 15 ships Blake destroyed the two shore batteries and nine Algerian ships in Porto Farina, the first time shore batteries had been taken out without landing men ashore.

In February 1656 commercial rivalry with Spain was soon turned to war. In the Anglo-Spanish War Blake blockaded Cadiz, during which one of his captains, Richard Stayner, destroyed most of the Spanish plate fleet at the Battle of Cadiz. A galleon of treasure was captured, and the overall loss to Spain was estimated at £2,000,000. Blake maintained the blockade throughout the winter, the first time the fleet had stayed at sea over winter.

On 20th April 1657 Blake totally destroyed



Robert Blake's flagship the *George* at the battle of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 1657

another armed merchant convoy, the Spanish West Indian fleet, in the Battle of Santa Cruz de Tenerife – a port so well fortified that it was thought to be impregnable to attack from the sea – for the loss of just one ship. Although the silver had already been landed, Blake's victory delayed its arrival at the royal treasury of the Spanish Government and earned the new English Navy respect throughout Europe. As a reward Blake was given an expensive diamond ring by Cromwell. The action also earned him respect 140 years later from Lord Nelson who lost his arm there in a failed attack.

After again cruising off Cadiz for a while, Blake turned for home but died of old wounds within sight of Plymouth.

Gift Suggestions

The Friends' book *Five Walks Around the Rame Peninsula* by Bill Scolding would be an ideal gift for anyone who loves walking in this area. Featuring maps, paintings, archive pictures and wildlife photography the book will be the perfect companion as you explore this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A very interesting read! Price £6.00 (including postage) from:

Walks Book, FoMECP, Mount Edgcombe House, Cremyll, Cornwall, PL10 1HZ.

Mt Edgcumbe during the covid 19 lockdown

Chris Burton

Well what a strange time it's been and all of us have had to deal with it in our own way. It's been a learning curve for all of us, as we try and deal with what is a global problem but effects every part of our lives both work and play. But Mount Edgcumbe has always been just that, a place for work and play.

We are looking forward to the reopening of the Park and its facilities. As you can imagine we have been adapting to a range of Government guidelines which have frequently changed often at quite short notice.

The reopening will have to be carried out in a phased way to allow us all to get acclimatised to the new situation without creating a stampede that might tarnish the Park's reputation (ref: Bournemouth Beach). We will be following a simple sequence which will hopefully remove constraints in a logical way.

As you will know the wider Park has been open throughout the lockdown allowing local people to exercise and walk the dog. It will be important that we all meet any potential demand in a professionally robust way – so we need an interim period to experiment and get ready for the new normal (apologies I will try and avoid using that phrase from hereon in).



Once we have a settled and fully reopened Park with everyone comfortable with their operation and sure that they can cope with demand whilst meeting the Covid 19 guidelines – then at that point we can start thinking about some type of more upbeat community celebration of Mount Edgcumbe coming back to life.

We will of course have to monitor the wider ongoing situation with Covid 19 to keep abreast of any developments.

Mount Edgcumbe has always adapted, it will rise to this latest challenge.

Stay safe.

The above article was submitted by Chris at the beginning of June and since then there have been many changes. Whilst we must still be careful we all sincerely hope the worst is over and that some kind of normality can return to the park we all love so much.

Ed

PREFACE to the Edgcumbe records of 1888

By William Henry, 4th Earl of Mt Edgcumbe

Having amused myself by reading some of the old deeds, letters and other MSS, preserved at Mount Edgcumbe, I have thought it worthwhile to put into readable form such family records as may be gleaned from their contents, because, if I were to allow them to relapse into oblivion, I doubt if anybody else would take the trouble to bring them to light again.

A few extracts from general history have been inserted where they appeared necessary, in order to explain the incidents referred to; and some events of local interest have been noticed in which it is probable that my ancestors took part, although not mentioned in any existing family documents.

The Eggecombes of Eggecombe

In the parish of Milton Abbot, about a mile from the village, and on the edge of the Duke of Bedford's beautiful estate of Endsleigh, is the small house of Edgcumbe, or Lower Edgcumbe, standing where has been from time immemorial the dwelling of the elder branch of the Edgcumbe family.

In a MS book relating to the genealogy of that family, and written by Mr Pierce Edgcumbe in 1810, there is a drawing of the house as it then was; and a photograph given to me by Mrs Edgcumbe, the mother of the present owner, in 1874, shows that little or no alteration has been made in the fabric of the house since the former date, some outbuildings only having been removed, and replaced by a garden.

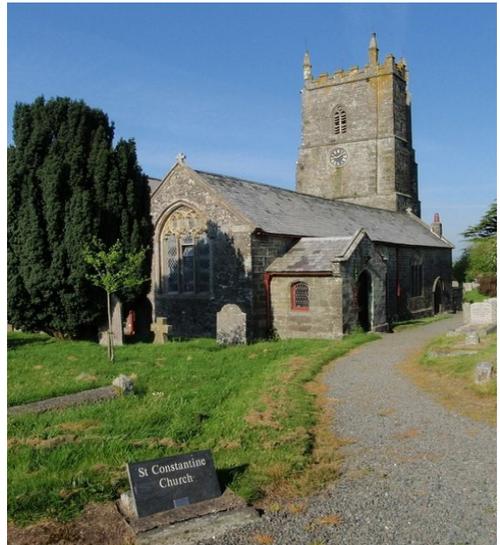
In part of the back premises are four granite stones inscribed with the initials R.E., and a date supposed to be 1292. The letters, however, resemble rather those found in inscriptions of the sixteenth century, and the uncertain form of the second figure, which is more like a reversed S than a 2, throws some doubt upon the date, which may be 1592.

From the pedigree in Mr P. Edgcumbe's book, it appears that there was a Richard Edgcumbe (of Edgcumbe) living in 1592. But, if the dates are correct, he was not at that time owner of the place; because although his father, Thomas, died in 1589, his elder brother John, whom he succeeded, was still living in 1620.

At any rate, whoever was the head of the family at the end of the thirteenth century is stated to have had three sons: 1, JAMES, of whom nothing is known; 2, RICHARD, who was of Edgcumbe in 1319-1323 and 1324; and 3, REGINALD, who is styled Clericus, and was living in 1324.

In the latter year Richard granted to Reginald de Eggecombe, Clerk, a garden, etc., and in the same year Robert, Abbot of Tavistoke, granted two farthings of land upon Ramsdown to the same Reginald.

Richard had two sons: JOHN, who succeeded his father in the Eggecombe estates, and was living in 1390; and 2, WILLIAM, who in 1353 married HILLARIA DE COTEHELE, the heiress of the house and estate of COTEHELE, where they thenceforth lived, and founded that branch of the family which two centuries later removed to Mount Edgcumbe.



St Constantine Church in Milton Abbot

HILLARIA de COTEHELE

The earliest deed I know of which bears the name of Cotehele is dated 1293, and refers to EUSTACE DE COTEHELE.

His name appears again upon a deed executed in 1330

RADULPHUS or RANDOLPH DE COTEHELE, who executed a deed in the following year, 1331, was no doubt his son and successor.

Several deeds without date bear the same name, and probably refer to the same person.

In one he mentions his daughter CLARINA, wife of William and the above mentioned refers to his own son William, who married, daughter of Walter de Donne.

The children of this marriage were a son named RALPH, and a daughter named HILLARIA, who were both under age when their father died (before 1336).

As their ancestors had always held their lands of the Earls of Cornwall by Knight Service, John de Eltham, then Earl of Cornwall, promptly seized the wardship of these children as Lord Paramount, and gave it to one Richard de Backhampton, then his Steward in Cornwall, on account of good and agreeable service done to him by the said Richard, who transferred it for consideration to Maude de Brendon, a lady with a daughter to marry, which daughter was accordingly espoused to young Ralph.

Ralph died childless and on the death of his mother in law, about 1352, a contention arose about the guardianship of his sister Hillaria, and the right to dispose of her in marriage.

John de Eltham having died in 1336, the matter came before the Council of Edward the Black Prince, who had been created Duke of Cornwall of the King in 1337.

In the first place John de Brendon, eldest son of Maude de Brendon, claimed the wardship and marriage of Hillaria as his mother's heir; and by an Order of Council, dated March 1, 1352,



**Edward the Black Prince
Duke of Cornwall**

The Prince declares that they belong to himself, and that he has sold them to the said John, so that she be married without disparagement, for 40 shillings (solez), to be paid to the Feodary of the Duchy. By a subsequent Order he commands his dear "Vadlet," John Dabnoun de Bradford, the said Feodary, or keeper of the fees of Cornwall and Devon, to deliver to this John de Brendon the body of the said heiress, to be married as aforesaid, on payment of the money; and again in a third Order commands that the said John be allowed to take her lands and tenements for his advantage and profit, "in case that in any marriage offered to her she shall not be disparaged, within the time ordained by the statute, and that she has refused."

On further investigation, however, the Feodary learns that Maud de Brendon on her deathbed appointed another son, Thomas, and his sister Joan, to be her executors, and bequeathed to them by will the wardship of the body and lands of Hillaria.

One Mons. Walter de Wodeford (whom the Prince calls "our dear Bachelor ") has also stated that the contested wardship was sold to him by the said Thomas; and at the same time Hillaria herself claims to be of full age of fourteen years and upwards, and prays to have letters of enquiry as to her age, so that she may have the benefit of the statute, which would free her from control in the matter of marriage.



King Henry VII

Wherefore the Prince, on 27th March, 1353, issues fresh orders to his Steward and Feodary, "We command you," he says, "that you call the parties before you, if they are willing to come; and, the things on the one hand and on the other being properly tried, that you cause the 'livery' to be made to him who ought in right to have it. And if what is needed cannot be duly tried before you, that you certify to us distinctly all the aforesaid things, and the rights claimed by each party."

I have no record of the issue of this enquiry; but as the young heiress was born in the days of John de Eltham, who had been dead at least sixteen years, she must have found it easy to prove that she was of age to choose for herself. Probably

she had chosen already. At any rate, she was married within the year, for a deed dated 1353 bears the names of WILLIAM EGGECOMBE OF COTEHELE and HILLARIA his wife.

Their married life lasted about twenty-six years.

In 1378 William de Eggecombe granted lands in Middleton (Milton?) to the convent of Tavistoke, and in 1379 gave Middleshill in Calstock to his daughter JOHANNA. Soon after this he died, and within the year (1380) his widow consoled herself by marrying William Fleete of Sutton, her inheritance (or some portion of it) being secured to her and her second husband during their lives, after which it was to revert to her son PETER EGGECOMBE.

How long she survived, or where she passed the remainder of her life, is not recorded.

On 12th May, 1411, Licence was granted to "Peter Eggecombe and Elizabeth his wife" to celebrate Divine Service in the Domestick Chapel or Oratory "in their mansion in the parish of Calstock," by Edmund Stafford, Bishop of Exeter.

In 1415 a Peter Edgcumbe was party to a deed referring to lands in Plympton; and Collins says that a William Edgcumbe, who married the daughter and heir of Denset, received in 1419 a grant, with Robert Hethe, of the lead mines, with the silver ore therein, which were in Devonshire. This WILLIAM is represented as being the sole heir of William and Hillaria.

Perhaps he was a second son, and PETER (of whom no mention is made in the Pedigree) may have died without issue.

This WILLIAM Edgcumbe was succeeded by his son PETER, who in 1434 was returned as one of the chiefs of the county of Devon, who made oaths for themselves and retainers to observe the laws then existing.

By his wife, ELIZABETH, daughter and heir of Richard HOLLAND, Esq., he had two sons, of which the eldest was RICHARD, afterwards Knight Banneret and Comptroller of the Household to Henry VII.

From Normandy to Doncaster 1066 – 1905

Sir Nigel Gresley

There does not at first appear to be any connection between recent steam locomotives and the Battle of Hastings. Yet it is an authenticated fact that the entourage of William the Conqueror included three sons of one Roger de Toeni, Lord of the Norman Manor of Conches, from whom Sir Nigel Gresley descended.

The de Toeni family were relatives of the Duke of Normandy and, it has been claimed, held for over two generations the right to carry the Ducal Standard in battle. A picturesque story suggested that the eldest son, Ralph de Toeni, when offered the honour of bearing the Conqueror Standard at Hastings, immediately declined on the grounds that he preferred to throw himself into the heat of the battle. Whether this tale is true cannot be definitely established, though there is no doubt that Ralph de Toeni did not carry the Standard at Hastings.



Sir Nigel Gresley
1876-1941.

Jack Asquith



Sir Nigel's 100th Pacific named after him

Nevertheless, today, when many claimants to Norman ancestry can produce little or no supporting evidence, competent and critical historians are agreed that Roger de Toeni's sons, Ralph, Robert and Nigel, accompanied Duke William of Normandy to Sussex in 1066. As a reward for his services the second son, Robert de Toeni, received considerable gifts of appropriated English land; staying here for the remainder of his life. He became known as Robert de Stafford.

Robert's successor was his younger brother Nigel, whose son, William Fitz-Nigel de Stafford, had settled in Derbyshire at Drakelow. When this village was ravaged by plague about 1095 the de Stafford family hurriedly moved to a neighbouring village called Gresley, now known as Church Gresley. The name Gresley is thought to have been derived from the gravelly soil of the district. A Pipe Roll dated 1129 gave William's name as William Fitz-Nigel de Gresley, his surname having changed on moving, as was then the custom with landowners. Never could he have dreamed that over eight hundred years later part of his name would be carried by a steam driven machine capable of running at speeds exceeding one hundred miles per hour.

Born on June 19th, 1876 in Edinburgh whilst his mother was visiting a gynaecologist, Nigel Gresley was the fifth child of the Reverend Nigel Gresley, rector of Netherseal, Derbyshire and a grandson of the Reverend Sir William Gresley, Bart. Sir William was the ninth holder of the baronetcy originally conferred on Sir George Gresley of Drakelow in 1611, when King James 1 instituted hereditary baronetcies.

Nigel Gresley, like his successor on the London and North Eastern Railway, Edward Thompson, was educated at Marlborough College. On leaving school he became a pupil at Crewe Works.

Students of hereditary influence may like to ponder the fact that two of Britain's most able locomotive engineers of the Twentieth Century, Herbert Nigel Gresley and George Jackson Churchward, both vigorous and dominating personalities, descended from long-settled country families. The heads of the house of Churchward were squires of Stoke Gabriel, Devonshire, in an unbroken line from 1485 till the death of the last male survivor in 1951.

What led the youthful Nigel Gresley to select locomotive engineering as a career can only be conjectured. His earliest years at Netherseal found him living 3 miles from Donisthorpe station and it is probable that he spent many hours watching events on the railway.

It was in 1905 that Gresley's career led him to Doncaster where he was chosen to replace E.F. Howlden as Superintendent of the carriage and wagon works. Then in 1911 at the young age of 35 he was appointed as Locomotive Chief Engineer, a rare occurrence for an appointment to be made from existing staff. The directors had been deeply impressed by the versatility of Gresley's carriage and wagon work. Then on 1st January 1923, the London & North Eastern Railway came into active existence; the second largest of the four groups created by parliament through the Railways Act of 1921. Nigel Gresley was appointed as Chief Mechanical Engineer of the London & North Eastern Railway. This new position caused him to move from Doncaster, his home since 1905 to a house at Hadley Wood near Barnet. His office at Kings Cross was enlarged and became his HQ from which he controlled the locomotive and carriage destinies of the LNER. He was responsible for the

maintenance and heavy repair of 7,392 steam locomotives, 21,000 coaching vehicles and 300,400 goods wagons.

Gresley was also responsible for the design of many types of locomotive and in particular the A1 class (later A3) pacific locomotives, "Flying Scotsman" number 4472 being one of them and the first locomotive to be officially recognised as travelling at 100mph, and of course the A4 pacific class the most famous being number 4468 "Mallard" the world record holder for steam traction. It is one of these A4 locomotives, the 100th pacific type built which was named after its designer "Sir Nigel Gresley", LNER number 4498, later BR number 60007. Gresley had been Knighted in the King's birthday honours list of 1936 for his services on the Board of Trade Committee.

No one who accompanied Gresley to an exhibition in York thought for one moment that he would be dead within 6 weeks. But after a short illness he died of heart failure at his home, Watton House, Hertford, on 5th April 1941, he was then in his 65th year.

The son of an Anglican vicar, Gresley had become something of a connoisseur of churches. Not many months before his death he had examined the interior of Chelsea Old Church, which he thought the most fascinating of London's churches; it was therefore chosen for the well-attended memorial service held there on 9th April, while Gresley's body was being laid to rest in the churchyard of his father's former parish of Netherseal. Unhappily, Chelsea Old Church was destroyed in an air raid shortly afterwards.

He was regarded as a curious character in many ways and like all great men something of an eccentric. In the 30's he bred wild birds and ducks, in particular Mallard's on the moat of his home, Salisbury Hall, St. Alban's, Hertfordshire.

Discount Parking Permits for Friends'

We've secured a £15 a year discount on Parking Permits from Mount Edgcombe Country Park. The annual cost of parking permits covering all the car parks* is now £80, or just £65 for Friends.

To apply for a permit, call the Park on **01752 822236** to obtain the application form and arrange payment. The permits cover April to the end of March each year – if you are applying part way through a year the cost of the permit and the Friends' discount will be adjusted accordingly.

If you are a friend and have already paid the pre-discount price, please contact the Park using the details above to apply for a refund.

*Maker Church car park remains free to use – but please feel free to donate!

Perhaps the most pathetic picture towards the end of Gresley's life was the sight of him walking down the departure platform at Kings Cross insisting on the drivers of all Pacific locomotives blowing their whistles for him. A long way from the events at Normandy.

A memorial plaque has been erected by the Gresley society in his memory at Edinburgh Waverley station.

IN MEMORY OF
THE LIFE AND WORK OF
SIR NIGEL GRESLEY
1876—1941
BORN IN THIS CITY

CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER
1923—1941 LONDON & NORTH
EASTERN RAILWAY



**The statue of Sir Nigel
Gresley at Kings Cross
Station**

Norman Beaver-RIP.

It saddens me greatly to report the passing of Norman Beaver, a long time personal friend and a dedicated and enthusiastic friend of Mount Edgumbe.

Norman and I grew up in Torpoint after the war, when the town was much smaller than it is now and when it seemed that everyone knew everyone else. That being said our lives did not really converge until much later and Mount Edgumbe was responsible for that.

Before retirement, in his day job, Norman was a prominent figure of the Saint John's Ambulance organisation, where his efforts were suitably recognised and formally rewarded.

In the context of this publication Norman was the first volunteer buggy driver and at the point of his retirement, the longest serving. He started driving in the very early days of "Pauline" which was, as you with long memories will remember, a converted milk float that required considerable physical effort to control. For years Norman always drove on a Monday and his first chore on arrival was to clean the buggy from top to tail and this routine he continued when the new buggies were introduced.

On the social scene Norman, together with wife Marion, was a regular supporter of Friends' functions and if, for any reason Marion was indisposed it was not unknown for Norman to attend on his own. He also served for a number of years on the Friends' Committee and was a regular contributor to the Friends' Journal.

Norman was a true gentleman and Friend. He will be sadly missed.

Gordon Crocker



View from the Deer Park during lockdown



Mount Edgcombe Railway and Model Society

The Mt Edgcombe Woodland Railway has been affected, like everything else in the Park, by COVID. However over the winter we extended the railway to create the equivalent of a figure of eight and were looking forward to showing this to our audience in the spring. Unfortunately this looks likely to be Spring 2021.

In recent weeks as the Park has gradually opened its doors we have been busy with small groups keeping the railway tidy and doing routine maintenance. We look forward to re-opening as soon as circumstances will allow.



Can there have been a better way of spending the time?



Mt Edgcombe Xmas Fayre — 2020

It is with great regret that one of the major fund raising and successful events has been yet another casualty of the Covid 19 pandemic.

For those of you who regularly attend this wonderful event you will know that the chances of attending and remaining within a social distancing with all those attending would be impossible so let us hope that the Xmas Fayre in 2021 will be able to go ahead.



The Crest of the Mount Edgcumbe Family

Ed

Following the article by the Baron Porcelli in Journal 103, I have been looking into the Edgcumbe Coat of Arms. If you google the request there are variations shown. I am hereby copying an extract of a letter from York Herald to Lord Mount Edgcumbe dated 21st November 1960.

“A search has been made in the Records of the College of Arms for the possible addition of the acorns in your Crest in 1758. Nothing however has been found at this date or later to account specifically for the acorns. However the following information which the records disclosed with regard to your family Arms may be of interest to you. On the 10th March, 1573, Peter Edgcumbe, alias Peyrs Edgecombe of Mount Edgecombe, Co. Devon, was described as bearer of the Arms: Gules on a bend ermine cottised or three boars' heads argent, and on the same date he granted the Crest “A bore passant silver a chaplet aboute the neck of lorrell on pke proper”.

An old book of Grants shows the Edgcumbe shield as above, but with the bend ermines (i.e. silver ermine spots on black), instead of ermine, with four different Crests, one of which is drawn as: A boar passant argent tusked or about the neck a wreath vert fructed or. The rough drawing seems to indicate acorns. Another of the Crests is drawn: Issuant from a wreath vert fructed or a boar's head argent. There is no date but the Manuscript is almost certainly pre-1700.

Somewhat unusually for this early period a Motto is included, Au pleasure de Dieu soyt.

A number of early (pre-1700) entries were found and the bend is shown variously as ermine and sable.

On 24th May, 1742, a Grant of Supporters was made to the 1st Baron Edgcumbe of Mount Edgcumbe in the County of Devon – On either side a greyhound argent gule de poix collared dove tail gules. Here the arms are depicted as described in the confirmation of 1573 (without tinctures) but the Crest is unfortunately not shown.

The Arms showing the bend ermines appear with two pedigrees of your family recorded in 1785 and 1791. The mottoes shown incidentally are respectively “Au Plesir Fort De Dieu” and “Plaisir Fort De Dieu”. Here it is interesting to note that the boar is shown statant rather than pasant and

the wreath is shown fructed or. The former may be due to copying a previous drawing – the early drawings often confusing the two and that shown with the Grant of the Crest in 1573 being also in fact shown statant.

It is curious to find that in the Heralds' Visitation of Cornwall taken in 1620, seven generations are recorded which appear to relate (with slight discrepancies) to the seven generations given in Burke down to Piers, grandfather of the first Baron. With this pedigree are the Arms above (the bend being ermines) quartering Holland, and the Crest: A boar's head couped argent. This pedigree does in fact refer to the grant of 1573.

A pedigree, bound with Visitation papers of Devon and Cornwall for 1530, does again part of this line with the Arms as immediately above and five quarterings.

To sum up, although the searches so far have not demonstrated the exact descent of Mount Edgcumbe from the Grantee of 1573, it seems that the Crest recorded for Mount Edgcumbe in 1785 is intended as that of this Grant and that, while no change was recorded during the period after 1700, the Arms do appear to have been depicted fructed or, which has possibly been taken as being within the limits of the term “proper”, in the Grant of 1573.”



Letter to the Editor

Dear Tony

Thank you very much for the latest Friends Journal. Someone (I wonder who) has very patiently transcribed the account of the Edgcumbe Voyage to Ireland; and which finishes with the comment that the Bronze Age Horns may have come back from Ireland after that voyage.

Please may I ask that you draw the attention of the Friends to the two research papers about the Voyage and the origin of the Horns which I researched, published and re-published as pdfs on the Rame History Group website.

http://www.ramehistorygroup.org.uk/research_papers.html

The Voyage of Sir Richard Edgcombe into Ireland in the year 1488 (Cynthia Gaskell Brown)

Mount Edgcumbe Irish Bronze Age Horns (Cynthia Gaskell Brown)

If the Friends website is up for it they could be copied in full or included as links.

Its very important that the **Horns are correctly described as an 18thC acquisitions**. Their story is very fascinating and indeed entertaining. The House Stewards have access to this article from the Antique Metalware Society, no 16, June 2008 in the House Library.

The **Voyage** was published by me in the Cotehele Journal, vol 2, March 2010

Best wishes

Cynthia

Gift Aid

A reminder about Gift Aid - if you Gift Aid your annual membership fee, we can claim back the tax at no cost to yourself. This really helps boost our funds. Please contact Ged or Gill if you'd like a form. *(Contact details Page 23)*

Poets Corner

The Moon and the Yew Tree

Sylvia Plath

This is the light of the mind, cold and planetary.
The trees of the mind are black. The light is blue.
The grasses unload their griefs on my feet as if I were God.
Prickling my ankles and murmuring of their humility.
Fumy, spiritous mists inhabit this place
Separated from my house by a row of headstones.
I simply cannot see where there is to get to.

The moon is no door. It is a face in its own right.
White as a knuckle and terribly upset.
It drags the sea after it like a dark crime; it is quiet
With the O-gape of complete despair. I live here.
Twice on Sunday, the bells startle the sky –
Eight great tongues affirming the Resurrection.
At the end, they soberly bong out their names.

Yew tree points up. It has a Gothic shape.
The eyes lift after it and find the moon.
The moon is my mother. She is not sweet like Mary.
Her blue garments unloose small bats and owls.
How I would like to believe in tenderness –
The face of the effigy, gentled by candles.
Bending, on me in particular, its mild eyes.

I have fallen a long way. Clouds are flowering
Blue and mystical over the face of the stars.
Inside the church, the saints will be all in blue,
Floating on their delicate feet over the cold pews,
Their hands and faces stiff with holiness.
The moon sees nothing of this. She is bald and wild.
And the message of the yew tree is blackness – blackness and silence.

DISCOUNTS IN THE BARROW CENTRE

For the Friends of Mt Edgcombe Country Park
(on sight of current membership card)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5% at Kate Williams Weaving, | 20% at Quirky Cups** and Aunty Em's*** |
| Helen Round and Upcycled Homes Co | 25% at Adventure Segway and |
| 10% at Chris Thorn* and the Farriers | 25% at The Orangery |
| *On his own work **Except Gin glasses ***Not Ice Cream | |

Pictures taken in Mt Edgcombe park in early June during lockdown



Executive Committee 2020

CHAIRMAN

Nicola Cull 07808 176581

Email: chairman@fomecp.org.uk

VICE CHAIRMAN

Steve Creese 01579 345679

Email: vice.chairman@fomecp.org.uk

TREASURER

Gill Bunnell 07786 115928

Email: treasurer@fomecp.org.uk

SECRETARY

Carol Drummond 01752 212801

Email: secretary@fomecp.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Ged Edgcombe 01752 696477

Email: membership@fomecp.org.uk

MEMBERS

Anne Creese 01579 345679

Neil Rugg 01752 822558

Alan Drummond 01752 212801

Tony Hutchings 01752 823393

Email: tonyhutch@mail.com

Please take the time to take part in the Visitor Survey.

Your committee is anxious to find out the reason visitors come to the park and even more importantly, how YOU feel the Friends can best spend their funds in improving the experience.

If you can't scan the QR Code below then go to our website or when in the park pick up a hard copy in Lambert Lodge.

LOVETHE PARK?
TELL US MORE. SCAN
THE QR CODE TO
COMPLETE THE FRIENDS
OF MOUNT
EDGCUMBE
VISITOR SURVEY.



charity number: 295261

e: chair@fomecp.org.uk

w: fomecp.org.uk



Journal editor: Tony Hutchings. tonyhutch@mail.com 01752 823393

Website editor: Situation Vacant (can you help?)