

# Milton Creek Trust - 2018 AGM

## Financial Report

Our Financial Year ends on the 30th September. During the year 2016/17 we continued to receive valuable support from our Borough Councillors which has allowed us to cover all our necessary expenses. It was also another successful year for fundraising, the third Wine & Wisdom event, the first open air cinema and other activities raised £953; there was no income from Art in the Park 2017. We are also very grateful to the Rotary Club of Sittingbourne Invicta who turned out to install 2 new benches on a horribly wet day having funded them at a cost of £954 and for another Community Chest award of £240 to pay for the rubbing plaques of flora and fauna to be installed around the Park on the Art Trail marker posts.

Four trails, including the Park Run course, have been established by the installation of 42 marker posts with coloured way marker arrows at a cost of £2,797.50. The map boards have been designed and two display lecterns have been delivered and are awaiting installation.

As mentioned at the last AGM two of the original Trustees, who had played a key roll in organising the first four Art in the Park events had moved on and the future of the event was up for review. A new organisation, MBR productions run by Kerry Consitt of Jimmy's Centre Community Projects, came forward and Kerry was keen to take over the event and had plans to continue expanding what was on offer. After the 2017 event a number of participants and local residents approached the Trust and expressed their disappointment with what had been delivered, stating that they preferred the format of the earlier events and asked if we would take back the running of Art in the Park. A meeting was held to discuss what people wanted and decide on a way forward. At that meeting a number of individuals volunteered their assistance. Kris Staples the Park Ranger was also keen to see the event continue and he introduced Kelly Rhodes who has experience as an Event Manager and has worked with Kris at a number of events in the Medway towns. It was decided that with the help of Kelly and the volunteers it would be feasible to take back the running of Art in the Park in 2018 providing the Trust was able to raise sufficient funds to provide free art workshops for the children and cover the other necessary expenditure that this type of event incurs.

I am pleased to be able to report that we have secured a £1000 Culture grant from Swale Borough Council and with money held in reserve and raised at other events during 2017 the Trustees and the Friends are now in a position to move forward with organising the next Art in the Park which will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018 from 11am till 4pm.

For the current year; a forth Wine & Wisdom fundraising event is planned for March 3<sup>rd</sup> and we are looking at the possibility of installing some permanent orienteering courses to supplement the three marked trails and Park Run course.

Thank you

Lynda Marshall