

Milton Creek Trust - 2020 AGM

Fundraising Report

Our Financial Year ends on the 30th September. During the year 2018/19 the Trust continued to receive valuable support from our Borough Councillors. Their £350 grant has been enough to cover all our necessary expenses.

It was also another successful year for fundraising. The Trust raised a total of £7,200 towards running Art in the Park 2019. This was going to be our biggest and most exciting event to date. Unfortunately, due the extreme weather conditions on the 10th August, we had no option but to cancel the event. Fortunately the funding we had received allowed us to pay all the artists and entertainers we had booked and repay the stall holders their fees.

We were able to cancel a number of big ticket items like the bandstand, the toilets, SFM and the First Aid cover, who all were good enough not to charge us. This meant that we did not need to spend the £1000 culture grant that we had received from SBC. We have been able to use £500 of this to cover the Trust's contribution towards the Handlebards performance last summer but the Trust has had to return the remaining £500 to SBC.

In 2017 the future of Art in the Park was discussed. At a meeting a number of individuals volunteered their assistance and Kris Staples the Park Ranger, who was also keen to see the event continue, introduced Kelly Rhodes who had experience as an Event Manager and had 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 for the Friends group to take back the running of Art in the Park in 2018 provided that 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. The 2018 event was a great success so it was decided to carry on and run it again in 2019. Money was raised but unfortunately during the planning stage Kelly Rhodes resigned as Event Manager due to family pressures. Sue Gent stood in to cover the role just for 2019. In September Kris's apprentice Ryan, who was coming to the end of his apprenticeship, left SBC having secured a new job with Sevenoaks BC. The Trust held an EGM in October to decide on the future of Art in the Park as it needs a team of at least 4 people to run this type of event. No one came forward, at that meeting, who was prepared to help run the event. Kris reported that there had been very high participation in a number of other events that he had organised over the summer, like the Teddy Bears' picnic and that these types of events were much cheaper and easier to organise. Therefore it was decided to concentrate on these other type of events and reluctantly the Friends would no longer be running Art in the Park. Ideas Test and D S Smith were both keen to see the event continue so they may look at the possibility of funding an event manager to take it over in 2021.

I am pleased to be able to report that we have also received a £2000 donation from Wheelabrator and £500 from the Asda "Chosen by you" green token scheme. A £691.90 sports grant from Swale Borough Council has paid for the disc golf set. And for the coming year, just last week, I received news that we have been awarded a maximum £1000 grant by Celebrate National Lottery 25 for a community project, which we plan to put towards the cost of a performance of Mr Stink on 30th Aug.

Every year as a legacy of Art in the Park the Trust has added a permanent piece of art work to the Art Trail and this year will be no different. The Trust received a £1000 KCC grant from Sue Gent towards Art in the Park. This is being used to pay for the carving of the 3 totem poles (as the painted decoration had weathered badly) and the installation of a new Big Game made up of 35 colourful wooden bollards. Part of the 'Awards for All' Lottery funding was earmarked to pay for more interpretation panels and artwork for a new Nature Trail that is currently being installed at a cost of £3,900. £3,200 income raised this year plus £3000 from the reserve fund has been promised towards the cost of a second pond and fencing that has just been installed. This will reduce the reserve fund to £3000.

Lynda Marshall