



Tim Smit

CEO & Co-Founder, Eden Project

Tim Smit KBE was born in Holland, read Archaeology and Anthropology at Durham University and then worked for ten years in the music industry as composer/producer in both rock music and opera. In 1987 Tim moved to Cornwall he and John Nelson together 'discovered' and then restored the Lost Gardens of Heligan. Tim remains a Director of the gardens to the present day.

Tim is Chief Executive and co-founder of the Award winning Eden Project near St Austell in Cornwall. Eden began as a dream in 1995 and opened its doors to the public in 2000, since when around 13 million people have come to see what was once a sterile pit turned into a cradle of life containing world-class horticulture and startling architecture symbolic of human endeavour. Eden has contributed over £1 billion into the Cornish economy. Eden is proud of its success in changing people's perception of the potential for and the application of science, by communicating and interpreting scientific concepts through the use of art, drama and storytelling as well as living up to its mission to take a pivotal role in local regeneration. It demonstrates once and for all that sustainability is not about sandals and nut cutlets, it is about good business practice and the citizenship values of the future.

Tim has received a variety of national awards including The Royal Society of Arts Albert Medal. In 2002 he was awarded an Honorary CBE and in 2011 he was appointed an honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE). Tim has received Honorary Doctorates and Fellowships from a number of Universities. In 2011 Tim was given a special award at the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. Tim has taken part in a quantity of television and radio programmes and has been the subject of 'This is Your Life' and a guest on 'Desert Island Discs'. Tim is the author of books about both Heligan and Eden and he has contributed to publications on a wide variety of subjects.

Strong Beliefs

Relentless endeavor always demonstrates things can happen against the odds!

Trust your instincts...

Learn not to fear being disliked.

Before you start anything ask what great looks like!

Themes

The remarkable Eden Story

Leadership in adversity

Creating a sustainable future

A life well lived

The secret of self-motivation

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