



Tim Smit

Chief Executive and Co-Founder, Eden Project

Tim Smit was born in Holland on 25 September 1954. He read Archaeology and Anthropology at Durham University. Tim 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 more than 6 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 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 in the New Years Honours List and he has received Honorary Doctorates and Fellowships from a number of Universities. Tim was voted 'Great Briton of 2007' in the Environment category of the Morgan Stanley Great Britons 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'. He is a regular speaker at conferences, dinners and other events. Tim is the author of books about both Heligan and Eden and he has contributed to publications on a wide variety of subjects.

Tim is an amazing public speaker and has inspired, informed and provoked audiences across the world.