
**The Deepdene Trail – An Extraordinary Landscape Rediscovered,
Opening in Surrey on 10th September 2016**

**Grand opening date and fabulous new competition announced celebrating exciting new
heritage trail opening in Dorking, Surrey.**

The Deepdene Trail and Kuoni Travel have launched a fantastic new competition to celebrate the opening of The Deepdene Trail this year in Dorking. The fabulous prize is a five night holiday for two people to Washington D.C. to see the Hope Diamond. The famous Hope Diamond was once owned by the Hope family who owned the Deepdene Estate in the early 1800's.

Leader of Mole Valley District Council, Councillor Vivienne Michael said, "We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Deepdene Trail on 10th September when we hold our Grand Opening Day. It will be a day out for all the family with plenty to see and do. We are inviting everyone to bring a picnic and enjoy the day with us!

"This new competition, partnering with Kuoni Travel will help us spread the word far and wide about The Trail. We are proud to be working with a locally based business that has been vital to the success of this project."

"We are also extremely grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and many other partners that have enabled the works to go ahead on the Estate. We value our green spaces and this project, opening up new areas that can now be enjoyed by all, is a fantastic addition to the District."

Julie Day of Kuoni said, "As a local company, and custodian of part of the original Deepdene Estate, it has been a pleasure to support the project and Mole Valley District Council. Kuoni Travel moved to its headquarters to Dorking in 1974 and have been on the 22-acre site ever since. It has been wonderful to watch the transformation of the gardens take place and the layers of history uncovered and restored to their former grandeur. Seeing the gardens uncovered, one of the first true Italianate landscapes in the UK, is a delight and the final Trail will be an asset for the local community to enjoy for years to come."

All are invited to The Deepdene Trail on 10th September from 10am to discover the stunning landscape views across Surrey, witness the surprising architectural features within the gardens and learn about the important role this estate's enigmatic owners once played in shaping international arts, architecture and design.

Work by Mole Valley District Council and The Friends of Deepdene has enabled the reinstatement of the gardens, paths and rebuilding of the Embattled Tower. The Grotto has been repaired and the estate's neoclassical masterpiece, Thomas Hope's Mausoleum the hidden gem at the heart of the estate has been repaired and reinstated to its former glory.

To be in with a chance of winning the five night holiday to Washington D.C., you can go online to www.deepdenetrail.co.uk, or pop in to Mole Valley's Pippbrook offices for an entry form to answer four multiple choice questions. The competition is open to over 21 year olds, in the UK not including Northern Ireland, it closes on 12th September 2016 and full terms and conditions are available on both the website and at Pippbrook offices.

-ENDS-

Notes:

What is the Deepdene Trail all about?

See www.deepdenetrail.co.uk for further details.

The Deepdene Trail is the fruit of Mole Valley District Council's, Heritage Lottery funded project to relink and repair the once-magnificent Deepdene Estate, begun as the 'Hope Springs Eternal' Project.

From the 10th September, we will be revealing, newly reinstated paths amongst the reclaimed beautiful Italianate gardens, stunning views throughout the Trail and architectural features originally created by Thomas Hope (1769 – 1831).

Thomas Hope - An Extraordinary Character

Thomas Hope, was a prolific collector, builder and designer of major national and international importance. He is regarded as the definitive Regency tastemaker and played a unique role in the arts, as patron, collector, writer and designer being credited with inventing the phrase interior design. His neoclassical mansion, Deepdene House on the Deepdene Estate was sadly demolished in 1969, however as part of The Trail project we have created a detailed virtual tour to bring it to life. This will be available to experience at Dorking Museum when The Trail opens.

The Hope Family Mausoleum

We have taken great care in repairing the remarkable Hope family mausoleum, a highlight of the Trail. It is the only surviving complete structure built by Thomas Hope. The building was buried in 1960 and remained hidden until it was uncovered by the Mausolea & Monuments Trust and Mole Valley District Council. This glorious Neo-Grecian tomb is now restored it to its former magnificence set into the grassy hill of Chart Park.

Media contact for further information and images:

Liz Rice, Communications and Marketing Officer

01306 879113 / 07506 110 079

liz.rice@molevalley.gov.uk

www.molevalley.gov.uk

Twitter - @deepdenetrail

@molevalleydc

Facebook – Follow us at

www.facebook.com/thedeepdenetrail

www.facebook.com/MoleValleyDistrictCouncil