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## **Deepdene Trail Opens in Dorking on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

### **Be The First To Walk The Trail!**

Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) is inviting everyone to celebrate the opening of their latest cultural offering in Mole Valley. The Deepdene Trail will open to the public for the first time on 10<sup>th</sup> September. MVDC are laying on a day of free activities from 10am to 4pm to mark the opening of this magnificent new addition to Mole Valley's cultural heritage. Visitors will be able to enter the magnificent, newly restored 19<sup>th</sup> Century Mausoleum, walk up the steps of the romantic Embattled Tower, explore up to seven miles of trails and wonder at the far-reaching views from Deepdene Terrace.

Live music, free children's activities and face painting will be provided and you may well bump into some characters from the early 1800's to give you a glimpse of the past! On the parterre in the heart of The Trail, visitors can relax with a coffee and soak up the atmosphere.

Up on Deepdene Terrace, local artists will be painting the vista and families can enjoy a picnic with facilities provided especially for the opening day. Those that wander down to explore the Mausoleum and hear its tragic tales will pass Dorking Golf Club which is offering refreshments on their own beautiful terrace.

Young children will delight at Coady's Craft Corner and can make a lion mask of their own. Older children can enter our photography challenge. Remember to tag your photos on social media with #Deepdenetrail so we can feature them on our new website [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk); keep an eye out for yours after the event!

Councillor Vivienne Michael, Leader of Mole Valley District Council said, "This wonderful new walking trail steeped in history at a local and national level is a fantastic addition to Mole Valley and we are delighted to open it to the public on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

"Our newly created App, Mole Valley District Council's first, will enable everyone to access every part of The Trail and learn about the important role that the Estate's enigmatic owners once played in shaping international art, architecture and design.

"The project has been funded with a £1 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and we have been working with the Fund and with many other local organisations and volunteers to make this unique space available for public use.

“We hope that everyone will enjoy the celebratory day and look forward to welcoming you.”

The Trail is opening on the 10<sup>th</sup> September in the middle of Heritage Open Days, embracing the celebration of Mole Valley’s culture.

**-ENDS-**

Media contact for further information and images:

Liz Rice, Communications and Marketing Officer

Telephone 01306 879113

Mobile 07506 110 079

Email [liz.rice@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:liz.rice@molevalley.gov.uk)

Website [www.molevalley.gov.uk](http://www.molevalley.gov.uk)  
[www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk)

Twitter @deepdenetrail  
@molevalleydc

Facebook [www.facebook.com/thedeepdenetrail](http://www.facebook.com/thedeepdenetrail)  
[www.facebook.com/MoleValleyDistrictCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/MoleValleyDistrictCouncil)

## **Notes:**

### **Entry to the Trail:**

Entry to The Trail is free of charge. The entrance is a 15 minute stroll from Dorking Town Centre. We advise to use the pedestrian crossings around the Cockerel Roundabout and head south on the A24, the Trail entrance is a few minutes walk along the A24 *after* the entrance to Kuoni's offices on the left hand side and is signposted from the main road. Volunteers, easily recognisable in their Deepdene Trail t-shirts and hats, will be posted along the route from the Town Centre to help guide people to the day's events.

The whole Trail is seven miles in length, to explore it fully adventurers will need to tackle steep slopes and tricky terrain. The focus of most activities on the 10<sup>th</sup> September is in the heart of The Trail, the parterre area and the surrounding Trail's gardens so is suitable for most to access.

Dogs are welcome on this opening day, and every day. We ask that they are kept on leads on the 10<sup>th</sup> September and you pick up after your dog.

Due to the natural topography of the site it is not suitable for children's bikes and scooters.

For more information about the Grand Opening of The Deepdene Trail, please visit [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk)

### **What is the Deepdene Trail all about?**

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

From the 10<sup>th</sup> 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).

See [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk) for further details.

### **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 within The Trail we have created a detailed virtual tour to bring it to life.

## **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 to its former magnificence set into the grassy hill of Chart Park.