

14 September 2017

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## **Celebrations on The Deepdene Trail!**

**On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September The Deepdene Trail's first birthday, over 200 people ventured inside Thomas Hope's Mausoleum as part of Heritage Open Days 2017.**

On this particularly special Open Day no bookings were required to enter the peaceful interior of the magnificent Mausoleum and hear from an expert guide how and why it was built, including both its historical and architectural significance.

Part of a series of Deepdene Trail events that celebrated Heritage Open Days (7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017), the Mausoleum's Open Day fell on The Trail's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. In celebration, visitors were offered free Deepdene Trail birthday cup cakes and refreshments were sold with proceeds and additional donations totalling over £160 towards The Trail's ongoing works.

Those that missed out on this chance to explore the inside of Thomas Hope's unique Mausoleum can book up for future guided tours with Dorking Museum at [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk).

Councillor Vivienne Michael, Leader of Mole Valley District Council, said: "In its first year, The Trail has received over 15,000 visits, many of them as part of special tours, events and organised activities. We are very proud of the work that goes on there and are delighted that people now have a new place to walk and enjoy in Mole Valley.

"We are now looking into the possibility of opening The Trail's underground tunnels to the public. To do this would require some very careful renovations by specialists to ensure the preservation of the interior and the safety of those involved. We are exploring funding sources and grants to meet those costs."

For more information on The Trail see [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk).

**-ENDS-**

## Notes

A once 'buried treasure' of The Deepdene Trail, the mausoleum was literally dug out of the ground by local volunteers as part of the Heritage Lottery funded project which enabled the landscapes repair and The Trails' creation in September 2016. This unusual building is normally closed to the public without a booked guide.

For additional information on parking and accessing The Trail please see [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk).

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