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## Win a Trip to Washington DC to Celebrate the Opening of The Deepdene Trail

**To celebrate the opening of Dorking's Deepdene Trail on 10<sup>th</sup> September, we are offering an opportunity to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to see the Hope Diamond in Washington DC, courtesy of Kuoni.**

This fabulous prize includes return flights to Washington D.C. and five nights' accommodation for two people to see the famous Hope Diamond currently held in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. The diamond was once owned by Henry Philip Hope, brother of Thomas Hope, who was the enigmatic owner of the Deepdene Estate in the early 1800's.

The Deepdene Trail team will be on Dorking High Street, near Oxfam on the mornings of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September with entry forms for your chance to win! You can also enter online at [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk). Come along and see us on the High Street to find out more.

The new Trail, funded by a grant awarded to Mole Valley District Council by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has restored and repaired the picturesque Estate's gardens including the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hope Mausoleum, formal gardens, grotto and embattled tower. The site is brought alive through informative boards and a specially commissioned Deepdene App.

The Trail's Grand Opening Day is Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September between 10am-4pm.

The entrance to The Trail is via Deepdene Avenue (A24), a few minutes walk south of Dorking from the Cockerel roundabout. You will arrive at the entrance about 100 yards after the Kuoni offices site on your left as you continue walking in a southerly direction along the A24 from the roundabout.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a family day out exploring The Trail. On the day, visitors will be able to wander the gardens, marvel at the original features and savour a coffee to music whilst watching local artists paint the enchanting vista up on the Deepdene terrace.

Free family activities will be available to keep little ones busy with creative craft, a colouring station and the children's quiz challenge. Free children's face painting is bound to be popular, as too will be making masks of Coady the Lion; the Deepdene mascot.

Leader of Mole Valley District Council, Councillor Vivienne Michael, said: "This new, historic walking Trail is a wonderful addition to Mole Valley's cultural offer. Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Mole Valley District Council has been able to restore this forgotten and lost landscape for all our residents to enjoy. The estate's gardens are a tranquil and inspiring oasis, enriched by the stunning architectural features now

repaired and restored to their former glory. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate this new jewel in Mole Valley's crown."

For more information on the Grand Opening Day and The Trail, follow us on social media, visit [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk) or call 01306 885 001. **-ENDS-**

#### **Notes to editor:**

**Parking for The Trail is at any of the Town Centre car parks, there is no car parking available on site.**

The nearest car parking is available in Dorking at the following car parks, payable via cash or by using the RingGo service:

Dorking Halls/Reigate Road, RH4 1SD - 10 minute stroll to The Trail

St Martin's Walk, RH4 1DX – 15 minute stroll to The Trail

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

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

From the 10<sup>th</sup> September, from 10am – 4pm 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. Through this project we have brought the house back to life through a virtual tour to available through a specially commissioned app.

#### **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](mailto:liz.rice@molevalley.gov.uk)

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

**Twitter:**

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@molevalleydc

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