

21st September 2015

Hope Springs Eternal – Work Begins!

Work has begun on the Hope Springs Eternal Deepdene Trail! Following the success of Mole Valley District Council's bid to the Heritage Lottery [Fund \(HLF\)](#) in Spring this year, work on the ground to re-instate the gardens and uncover this beautiful and accessible walking trail in Dorking is underway.

Last Friday, 40 guests involved in the project celebrated with the Chairman of Mole Valley District Council, Councillor Margaret Cooksey at an event hosted by Dorking Golf Club. Alex Bagnall, the Project Manager, presented a full timeline of works, expected completion dates and treated guests to a tour inside the stunning Mausoleum, the only complete surviving structure built by Thomas Hope and his final resting place.

Councillor Vivienne Michael, Executive Member for Community Engagement and Resident Services, said: "We are all delighted by the success of our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund which means that, in addition to the invaluable support we have from partners such as the Friends of Deepdene and the Dorking Museum, we now have over £1 million to enable us to take this fascinating and important project forward. From October next year, the Deepdene Trail will offer a new waymarked and accessible walking area of 7 miles. Local residents and visitors from across the globe will be able to enjoy this breathtaking landscape, discover the newly restored Mausoleum and learn more about the area's fascinating history and links with one of the country's most significant cultural figures, Thomas Hope."

A bespoke Virtual Tour and App will be created to guide visitors of all ages along the trail and educational packs for all stages of learning will be designed ensuring everyone can enjoy and learn about the history and heritage of this project. Once open, the trail will offer training on traditional methods of caring for the landscape and activities on-site will include Geo-caching and Nordic Walking.

For regular updates on the Hope Springs Eternal Project please find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. There will be plenty of opportunities for the local community to get involved and

these will be notified via all media channels including the Mole Valley District Council website – www.molevalley.gov.uk.

Ends

Notes to editors:

Thomas Hope (1769 – 1831), designed the remarkable Hope Mausoleum himself following the death of his youngest son in Rome in 1817. A patron of the arts, known as an extraordinary collector, builder and designer of major national and international importance, he was a great tastemaker in his time.

Thomas Hope's Deepdene Estate in Dorking, the neoclassical mansion (demolished in 1969, now the Kuoni office building's site) and surrounding Italianate gardens are considered unique in their picturesque style.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk

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