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**Winners of The Deepdene Trail's "My Dream Garden" Children's Art Competition announced, celebrating upcoming opening of The Trail in Dorking, Surrey on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Children from schools across the District were invited to design their own Dream Garden, inspired by the extensive works taking place on the Deepdene Estate to restore the atmospheric, historic gardens. The new, free to enter walking Trail is just a fifteen minute stroll from Dorking's High Street and opens on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016 from 10am with a Grand Opening Day, filled with music and family activities for all.

The winning entries of the competition for each age category were shortlisted by Mole Valley Youth Voice working closely with Dorking Decorative and Fine Arts Society (DDFAS) who sponsored the winners' prizes. The final judging decisions were made by local artist and the UK's leading Modern Impressionist, Sherree Valentine-Daines.

Councillor Vivienne Michael, Leader of Mole Valley District Council said, "This competition has inspired children across the District to imagine and design their very own Dream Garden. There have been some fabulously imaginative entries. We were delighted to receive such an impressive response with over 70 pieces of art submitted, from 18 different schools. We look forward to the Grand Opening of The Deepdene Trail on 10<sup>th</sup> September where everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a family day out exploring The Trail."

Andrea Gabb, Chair of DDFAS said, "Dorking Decorative and Fine Arts Society is a local arts appreciation society with over 300 members. It offers monthly lectures, visits and tours and is a friendly, welcoming group. One of its aims is to encourage Young Arts, and it is delighted to be associated with the Dream Garden Competition."

The winners of the 4 - 7years age category are:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Natalie Joy Aldaz Gamarra aged 6

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Elsie Evans aged 6

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Joint winners, Esme Pritchett aged 7 and Sofia Hills aged 5

The winners of the 8 - 11years age category are:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Avani Barhate aged 8

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Tabiana Fleming-Smith aged 11

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Thomas Anscombe aged 8

The winner of the 12-16 year age category is Naomi Clarke aged 13.

In addition to individual prizes the competition awarded a special prize to Leatherhead Trinity School, whose pupils sent in the most entries to the competition.

The winners will receive their prizes on The Deepdene Trail Grand Opening Day, 10<sup>th</sup> September at 12.30pm, presented by Jane Bourgeois, Committee member of Dorking Decorative and Fine Arts Society.

The Trail will be open to visitors from 10am for all 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.

The winning works will also be on display at Dorking Halls for one week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> September and they will also be on display on an online gallery at [www.deepdenetrail.co.uk](http://www.deepdenetrail.co.uk).

**-ENDS-**

**Notes:**

**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 once-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 it to its former magnificence set into the grassy hill of Chart Park.

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