

# MMT News

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*Newsletter of The Mausolea and Monuments Trust, Registered Charity No 1063416*

## *Miserable Mausoleum 2*

Several years ago, in 1997-98, the MMT attempted to highlight the plight of the Hope Mausoleum in the grounds of The Deepdene, near Dorking in Surrey.

The Hope Mausoleum, built and consecrated in 1818, is an austere and massive structure with inward sloping walls and a heavy over-sailing pediment (which once bore a bronze 'religious symbol'). It is pierced only by an arched door, closed by an iron or bronze grille, and stood in an enclosure defended by simple ironwork.



*The Hope Mausoleum before its burial*

It was here where Thomas Hope, the celebrated collector and arbiter of taste, was buried in 1831, followed by other members of his family. The last interment was that of the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of

Newcastle in 1941. In 1954 the mausoleum was permanently sealed up and buried in earth up to the level of the roof. The buried mausoleum and surrounding land was bequeathed to the urban district of Dorking in the will of the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Newcastle in 1960, in order to preserve the land as a public open space. As such it is still owned (freehold) and administered by Mole Valley District Council.

Some years ago we went in search of Hope's Mausoleum and found it in the overgrown woods, only its pediment emerging from the earth like some Etruscan tomb. The MMT hoped to persuade Mole Valley to help us excavate the tomb and restore both it and its setting. The Council was initially supportive of the idea, as was the Dorking and District Preservation Society; this group is presently attempting to restore parts of the former gardens of The Deepdene, and have commissioned a Restoration and Management Plan to do so. The Hope Mausoleum is one which is close to the heart of the MMT, and we would dearly love to restore it to its former state. We are now once again looking into the feasibility of its exhumation, restoration, and long term care. *Tim Knox*

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**Note** on the Guise Mausoleum, Elmore, Glos., sent in by Oliver Bradbury:  
“I need not here point out the importance of this mausoleum, save to say, that the pyramid and upper columns remain strewn over a melancholy wilderness area beyond the graveyard at Elmore. Here one finds crisp classical mouldings more reminiscent of ancient Rome than 18<sup>th</sup> century Gloucestershire.”

“The following are three published descriptions of the 1733 mausoleum which were perhaps not noticed by Sir Howard Colvin at the time of his 1991 article (“A Roman Mausoleum in Gloucestershire: The Guise Monument at Elmore”) in the *Georgian Group Journal*:

Samuel Rudder, *A New History of Gloucestershire*, 1779, p. 441:

“There is a large vault or burying-place in the churchyard, for Sir William Guise’s family, inclosed with palisadoes, and covered with a pyramidal roof, supported by arches springing from each corner.”

Ralph Bigland, *Gloucestershire Collections*, vol 3, 1791-92, p. 583:

“IN THE CHURCHYARD, Is an Arcade of four Arches, finished with a Pyramid of Freestone, erected over the Vault of the Family of GUISE.”

Thomas Rudge, *The History of the County of Gloucester*, 1803, vol 2, p 166:

“In the churchyard is a mausoleum, in a pyramidal form, supported by arches springing from each angle, under which are deposited the ancestors of the Guise family.”

## *RAIKES PROGRESS 1 and 2*

The situation is much improved since the last Newsletter. The mausoleum and the land around it are in separate ownership.

After being told of the problem, the company owning the land has cut down the trees encroaching on the mausoleum. Although the roots have undermined the steps, the building itself looks reasonably sound. In the 1950’s the Georgian Society for East Yorkshire organized the repair of the mausoleum. That society has now asked an architect member to prepare a report on its current condition and provide an estimate of what repairs would cost. For its part the MMT is attempting to have the building upgraded from 2 to 2\*.

The mausoleum in Welton Dale was not the only one built by the Raikes family. In 1797 William Raikes, father of Sir Robert Raikes of Welton Dale, built a mausoleum at Woodford in Essex, to receive the remains of his wife, Mrs. Martha Pelly Raikes, “in whom the conjugal, the parental and all the relative virtues were heightened by a superior understanding, and endeared by that unvaried excellence of temper, which is the genuine source of domestic happiness.”



*Raikes Mausoleum, Woodford, Essex*

William was a London merchant who dealt in oriental goods; his brother-in-law Job Matthew, who is also buried in the mausoleum, was a governor of the Bank of England.

The Woodford mausoleum is square with segmental pediments, its roof surmounted by a fine sarcophagus embellished with lion’s heads. It too is



beginning to need attention. Since this photograph was taken in 1999 it has become much more overgrown, with a sapling sprouting from the roof. Would any friend who wishes to join a working party to help clear the weeds please get in touch with our Hon Sec, John Hooper.

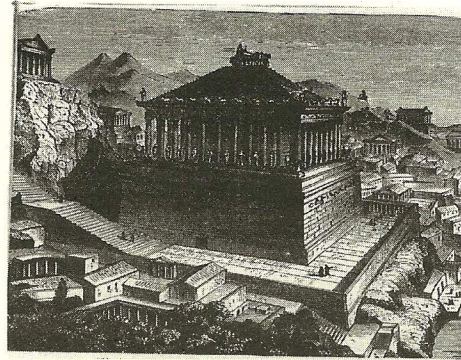
### *The Mausoleum which started it all*

Readers may like to know something about the mausoleum which started it all. This was the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus. It was designed by the sculptor-architects Pytheus and Satyros, according to the British Museum information, and it is to the British Museum that you must go in order to see the sculptures that are left, because “on the site itself virtually nothing is now visible,” according to George E. Bean, “Turkey Beyond the Maeander” chap. 9. Bean continues: “Its site was determined by Sir Charles Newton in 1856, and a number of the sculptures that he found are in the British Museum.”

It was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the (Ancient) World, built as a tomb for Mausolus, “ruler of the satrapy of Caria, in Asia Minor,” in the words of Sir Howard Colvin. (See “Architecture and the After-Life” Yale U.P. 1991) Mausolus ruled from 377 BC to his death in 353 BC. Artemisia his sister-wife died two years later. It is to Artemisia that the credit is given for building this memorial. The British Museum ([thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass](http://thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass)) tells us that according to the elder Pliny, the tomb was 140 feet high, was surrounded by 36 columns; had a stepped pyramid roof, and was crowned with a marble quadriga.

Nothing much was left when Sir Charles Newton started excavating in 1856.

As Sir Howard says, “The Mausoleum was not only the largest and most pretentious funerary monument of its time, it also established a new architectural form for buildings of this kind.”



*The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus  
Reconstruction from Seyffert's 1891  
Dictionary of Classical Antiquities*

### *The Rotherham Roundabout*

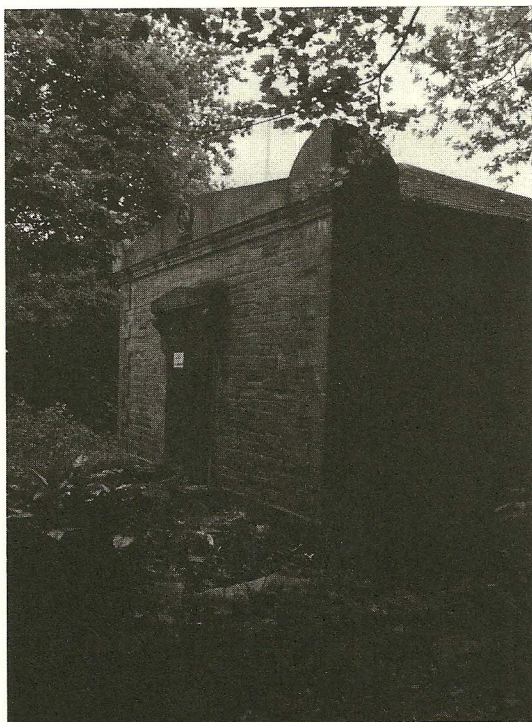
Afterwards, it's easy to find. As you come out of the **station**, turn left down a wide road and walk until you come to a **roundabout**; then take the left hand road which is also very wide - in fact, it becomes a **dual carriageway** - and - after a couple of hundred yards - *cross over it!* This is asking for trouble, of course: but then, you didn't see the **underpass**... And now that you know it is there, you should of course use it - if you can **FIND IT**. You would need to take the underpass in the first place, your problem is to find the entrance to it. All I can tell you is, that it's right next to the Mosque. (leave the station turn left, take first left down Chapel Road, half way down take Chapel Walk on your right, the mosque is a large building on your left; nearby is the entrance to the



underpass) Having found it and walked *under* the dual carriageway, as you rise up to street level, you will catch sight of the mausoleum slightly to your right and shielded by some trees.

The mausoleum is a single storey square building and now has bright green metal shutters on each of its four sides. At its front (which has its back to the main road) are two little obelisks. There is a sort of entrance to the space, and a low wall round part of it. But – you will find your way encumbered. Somebody has been using this place as a rubbish tip; and for quite a long time too. That, and it is very overgrown as well.

Having seen your mausoleum and ticked it off your list, you might want to penetrate more deeply into the waste ground behind the mausoleum – quite secluded at that, being surrounded by



*The Walker Mausoleum, Rotherham*

three Victorian buildings; one is the Chapel, another is the school-house, and I'm not sure what the third is or was.

Now the school-house and the other building look to be boarded up, but the Chapel has taken on a new lease of life as a carpet warehouse.

Around this enclave of graveyard and buildings, to the back of it, are in fact several two-storey arrangements of flats which are newly built and as it were unaware of this survival in their midst.

Finally, whose mausoleum is it? It is that of Samuel Walker, the famous ironmaster. Apparently now and then Walker and his wife used to visit their mausoleum and sit there for a while...

*David Sladen*

## MMT Special Event

Tracy Chevalier and Andrew Martin  
will be reading from their work at

The Art Workers Guild  
6, Queen Square  
Holborn, WC1

7 p.m. for 7:30,  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Tracy Chevalier is the author of "Fallen Angels," a novel which brings in Highgate Cemetery. Andrew Martin is the author of "Necropolis Railway," a crime novel.

Admission: £5

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