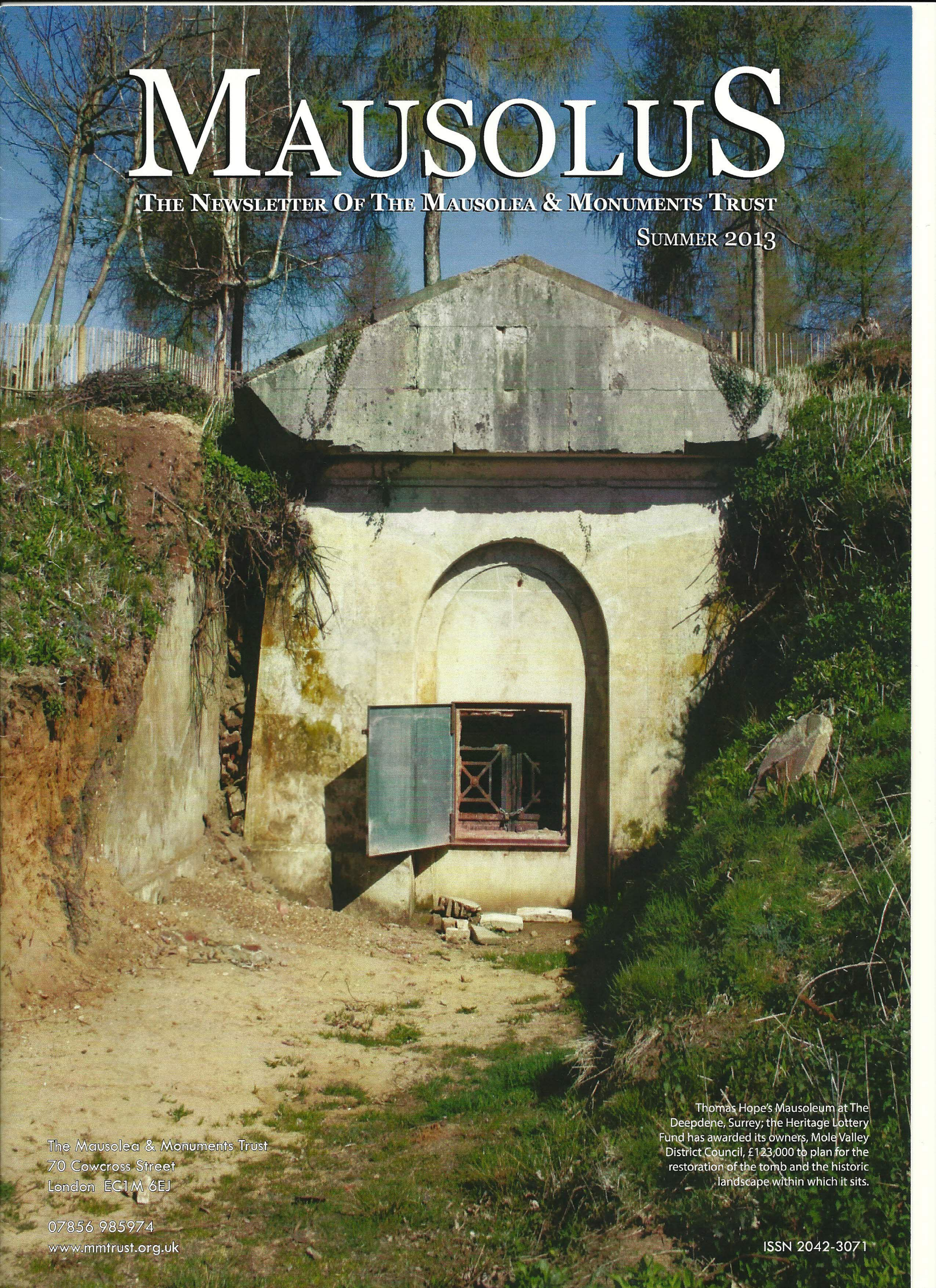


MAUSOLUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST

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Thomas Hope's Mausoleum at The Deepdene, Surrey; the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded its owners, Mole Valley District Council, £123,000 to plan for the restoration of the tomb and the historic landscape within which it sits.

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Hope Springs Eternal

Hannah Parham

Nearly three years after the Mausolea & Monuments Trust launched its first major conservation campaign of recent times, to rescue the mausoleum of Regency designer Thomas Hope, we are pleased to announce an award of £123,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a detailed plan for the revival of the historic Deepdene Estate in which the mausoleum is sited. This is in addition to a recent generous gift of £5,000 from the Society of Dilettanti, which has brought the Trust's fundraising for repair works to the mausoleum to over £80,000. The Heritage Lottery Fund money will be granted to Mole Valley District Council, the owner of the mausoleum and estate. A second bid by the Council is to follow, which, if successful, will mean work starting on site in autumn 2014.

Located on the south-eastern edge of Dorking in Surrey, The Deepdene is one of Southern England's great lost landscapes. Overgrown and underused, it is nonetheless a place of national importance, listed on the Register of Historic Parks & Gardens. Yet persistent neglect has blighted its special features, chief of which is an outstanding neo-Grecian mausoleum. This massive stone tomb was built by Thomas Hope, and has been buried for nearly fifty years.

The Deepdene owes its name to its distinctive topography: it contains a steep-sided, narrow dene, or dell, described by John Evelyn in 1655 as an amphitheatre. When Evelyn (and later Aubrey and Defoe) visited The Deepdene, the gardens were classical, inspired by the poetry of Virgil, and featuring grottos, a terrace and a vineyard. Its picturesque qualities caught the attention of Thomas Hope, who bought

the estate in 1808 and rebuilt the house in the Italianate style, preserving the antique character of the landscape and introducing statues and a temple. What Hope did at The Deepdene shaped fashionable taste elsewhere, not least in royal circles: Queen Victoria's Osborne House was derived from Hope's house. Disraeli wrote his novel *Coningsby*, a reflection on the politics of the 1830s, while staying at The Deepdene. Hope too was a novelist, publishing his remarkable tale of travels in the Ottoman Empire, *Anastasius*, in 1819 (Lord Byron later wrote: 'To have been the author of *Anastasius*, I would have given the two poems which brought me the most glory'). Hope was a member of the Society of Dilettanti and it was in recognition of his refined and exotic taste that the modern-day Dilettanti made their generous donation to our appeal.

The elegiac phrase 'Et in Arcadia Ego' was to prove true for Hope's Deepdene when, in 1817, his young son Charles died of a fever on a visit to Rome. The grieving Hope built an immense, elemental tomb in a far-flung corner of his estate, with wide views of the surrounding countryside. When Hope himself died in 1831, he too was interred in the new family mausoleum.

Hope's legacy quickly dissolved, however. His famous London town house on Duchess Street was demolished in 1851. Parts of The Deepdene estate became a golf course in 1897 and Dorking's suburbs began to encroach on its edges; only a campaign by Dorking-resident Ralph Vaughan-Williams, supported by public donations, halted its complete redevelopment. The Deepdene house was sold to Southern Railways and pulled down in 1969. Hope's

Note From the Chairman

Welcome to a new *Mausolus* – this one bears glad tidings from the HLF about our lead project, the rescue of the Hope Mausoleum at the Deepdene. This is very exciting news, and comes as a result of a great deal of hard work by our Trustees, by Mole Valley District Council and by a growing band of local volunteers. Hope Springs Eternal indeed!

Eager as we are to provide a fuller service for MMT members, we have revamped the gazetteer, and are laying on a fuller series of events. I would urge everyone to try to come to some of these – and to

bring prospective new members with you! Our AGM in Kensal Green Cemetery will not only include a tour of what many regard as England's finest cemetery; it will feature a talk by the renowned sculptor Alexander Stoddart, – generally regarded as the finest classical sculptor working today, and responsible for numerous public monuments. This promises to be an exceptional event, so please try to be there. Ideas for further outings are always welcome, so please get in touch with us.

RB.

