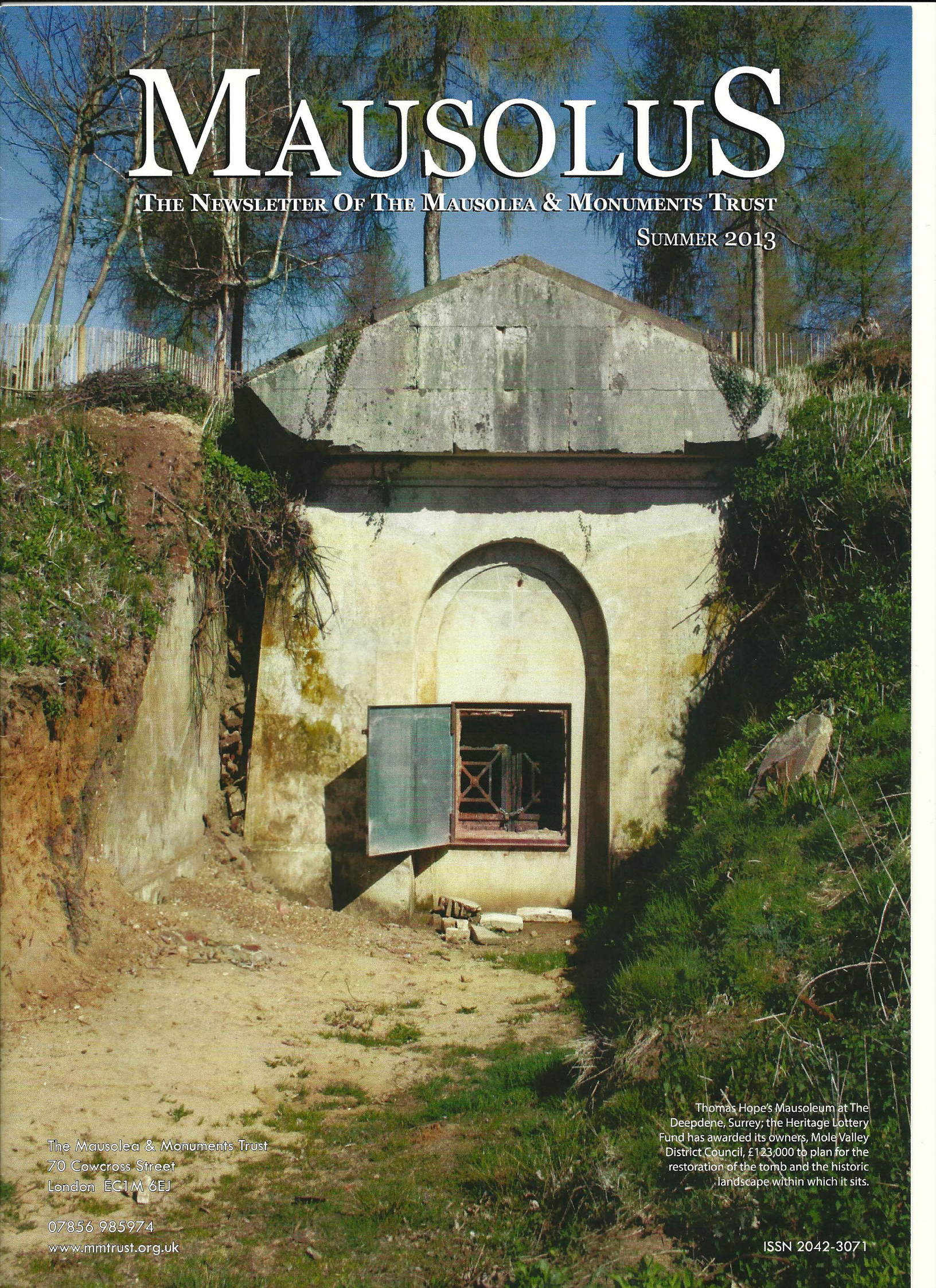


# MAUSOLUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST

SUMMER 2013



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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Members and others are warmly encouraged to contribute photos, news and features to:

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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.

mausoleum was sealed in 1957 and, bizarrely, buried soon after.

Hope's reputation has been restored in recent years, culminating in an exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum curated by David Watkin and Philip Hewat-Jaboor in 2008. Anastasius is now back in print. The statutory listing of the mausoleum was upgraded by English Heritage to Grade II\* in 2010, in recognition of its special importance (it is now the only extant building commissioned by Thomas Hope). But for all the revived interest in Hope, The Deepdene estate remains essentially closed to the public and the Mausoleum is in a forlorn state. Since Vaughan Williams' day, opportunities to restore the tomb and its unique setting have been few and far between.

This changed in 2010, when The Mausolea & Monuments Trust launched its Hope Springs Eternal campaign to raise £80,000 for the restoration of the mausoleum and Mole Valley District Council began to explore the potential of the wider historic landscape. Since then, the Mausoleum has been part-excavated and the quality of the original craftsmanship revealed; the interior is extraordinarily well-preserved, complete with cast iron openwork gates with a fishscale fanlight. The Hope Springs Eternal campaign presents the first realistic chance in half a century to rescue The Deepdene from oblivion and to restore the mausoleum for public benefit and delight.

Volunteers were central to the success of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid. A 'Friends of Deepdene' group has been founded and is going from strength to strength, meeting twice a week on the various parcels of land that make up the remnants of The Deepdene and putting in countless hours of labour. The group has been recently clearing soil away from the mausoleum courtyard to enable a better sense of the structure and to show its integrity. The group hopes to find some buried fragment of the railings that enclosed the courtyard, which could be used for a future reinstatement. Other partners in the enterprise include the Surrey WildlifeTrust, Kuoni Travel (whose headquarters in on the site of Deepdene house) and the Dorking Museum.

Even if the second bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is unsuccessful (though there is every indication that this will not be the case) the Mausolea & Monuments Trust's fundraising

has ensured that a substantial restoration of Thomas Hope's mausoleum will take place. Over £70,000 has been raised in pledges from charitable trusts, in addition to the £5,000 from the Dilettanti. The remaining £5,000 has been donated by admirers of Hope from around the globe via our Just Giving page [www.justgiving.com/hopespringseternal](http://www.justgiving.com/hopespringseternal). The Trust has delayed starting work on the repair of the mausoleum until the results of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid

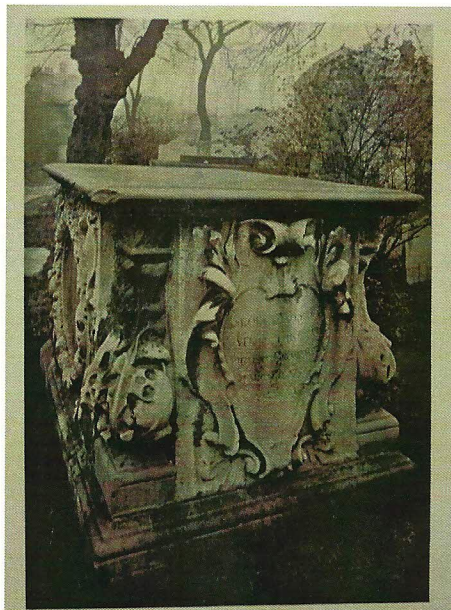
were known, because the restoration of the wider historic landscape is so critical to the setting of the restored mausoleum (in terms of security no less than aesthetics). With this recent success in attracting Heritage Lottery Fund money, the day we honour Thomas Hope's legacy by restoring his tomb comes nearer still.



Clinton-Hope  
Mausoleum, Deepdene.  
1919.

## One Hundred Years of Decay: the fate of outdoor churchyard tombs

Roger Bowdler



*The Radford tomb in 2012. The lid has been lowered and there is no sign of the chest tomb's components.*

There are two Ms in the MMT – one for mausolea and one for monuments. We are pretty closely identified with the former M, but what do we do about the latter? There isn't really an umbrella group for tombstones and churchyard monuments in general, so this is an area which causes us concern.

We all know that outdoor tombs are prone to decline. Evidence for the rate of this decline is hard to come by, however. I recently undertook a brief study to look at how one small group of tombs had fared over one hundred years. In 1916, Herbert Batsford and Walter Godfrey, publisher and architect/antiquary, published *English Mural Monuments and Tombstones*. It contained 29 clear photographs of outdoor monuments (beside many internal ones, which have generally aged extremely well), all taken pretty much one hundred years ago. How has this slender but telling sample fared?

Of the 29 tombs illustrated, located in fifteen different churchyards, none are in a wholly happy state. Twelve are in reasonable (if declining) condition; fifteen are in demonstrably poor condition; one is severely truncated, and one has been removed altogether. At least 60% of the monuments featured in 1916 are thus a cause for concern. Of the six tombs protected by railings, all have lost their ironwork.

All of the tombs depicted are to be found in the southern part of England, so this is overwhelmingly a study in the decay of limestone tombs. The causes of decline can be grouped under certain distinct headings: outright removal of reduction; weathering, and loss of detail; absence of maintenance, leading to widening of joints, rusting of iron cramps and structural separation; overgrowth leading to soot build-up and stone decay; and the ending of the tradition



*The tomb of Jane Radford (d.1684), St Mary's churchyard, Richmond-upon-Thames, as shown in Batsford & Godfrey (1916). Notice the skulls and bones in the angle balusters: an unusual enrichment for an outdoor tomb.*

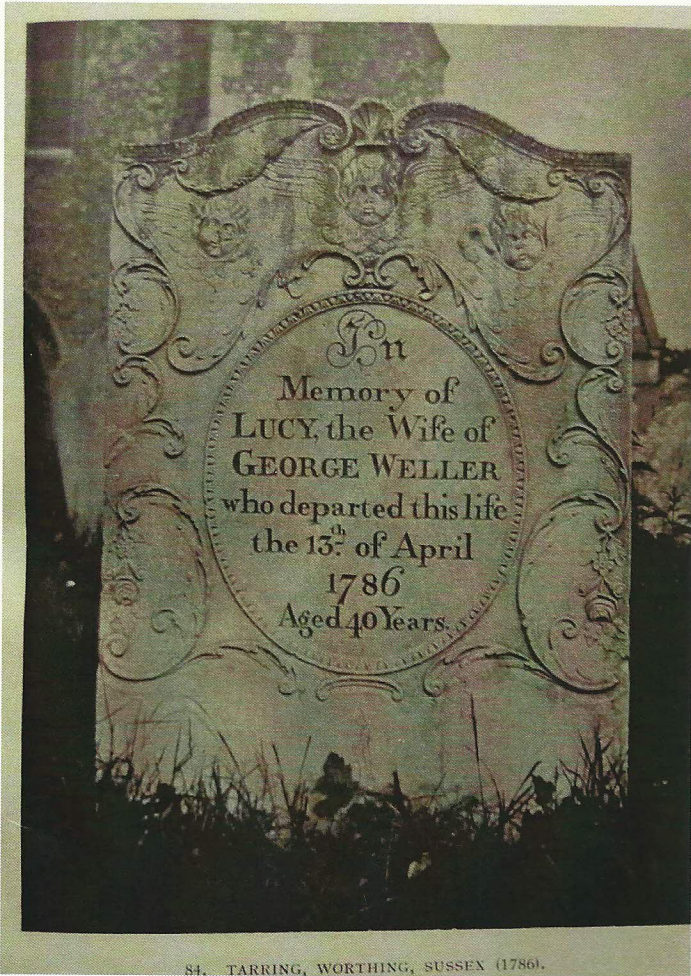
of picking out inscriptions in paint.

There are some signs of a revival of interest, however. Three churchyards – Fairford, Painswick (both in Gloucestershire) and Hampstead (in London) – have churchyard trails, and the latter has created a sound trail called 'Life and Death in Hampstead' which can be downloaded from the London Borough of Camden's website: a sign of the future, perhaps? Hampstead and Painswick have each undergone recent conservation campaigns, and other churchyards like Beaconsfield (Buckinghamshire) have clearly carried out similar programmes too.

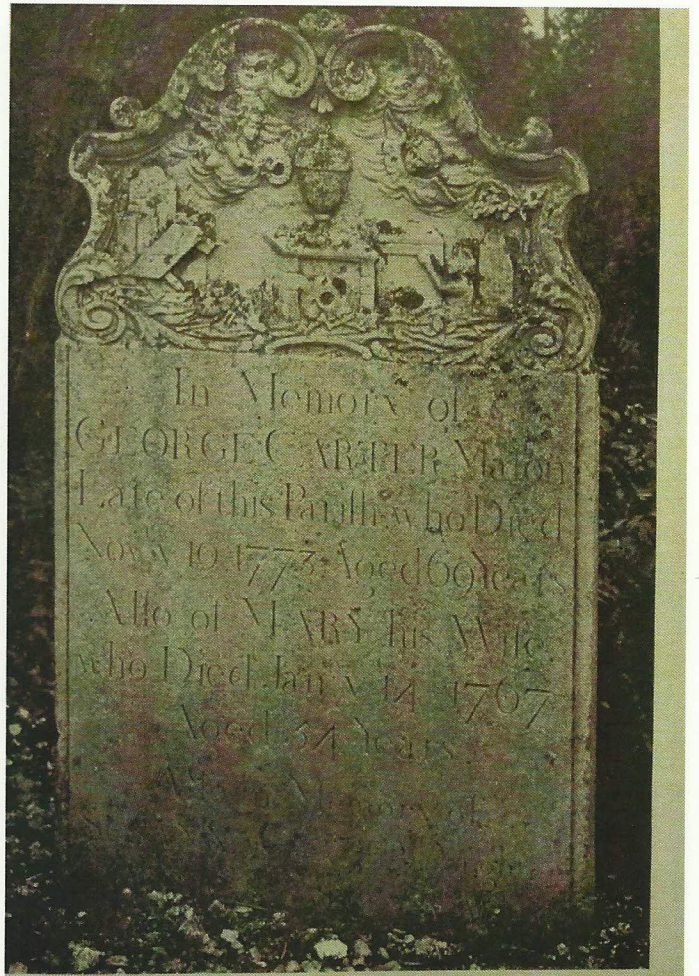
England is renowned for its churchyards, but they remain relatively little-studied places compared with intensive research being

undertaken in the United States and in Scotland. The outdoor Georgian headstone, one of the country's finest historical traditions, is often coming to the end of its legible life after two or three hundred years in our damp climate. We are planning a symposium with the Church Monuments Society next year to look at this area further. In the meantime, snapshots like this modest survey, inspired by Batsford and Godfrey's pioneering book, may help us shed light on the scale of the problem – as well as the splendours of what is at stake.

A fuller discussion of this survey is to be found in the Spring 2013 edition of *Cornerstone*, the magazine of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. A full set of the before and after photographs will be available on the MMT website very soon.



84. TARRING, WORTHING, SUSSEX (1786).



The headstone of mason Gorge Carter (d.1773), Epsom, Surrey. Carter's body is shown at prayer in this Last Judgment relief and all details are still very clear.



The Weller headstone in 2012. Soot is eroding the surface of the Portland stone, and the clarity of inscription is in sharp decline.



The Carter headstone in 2012. Surface erosion and lichen are compromising the legibility of the relief carving.

## Waiting for God: the Tillie Mausoleum at Pentillie, Cornwall

by *The Secretary, John St Brioc Hooper*



*Sir James Tillie (1645-1712)*

Sir James Tillie (d. 1712) who built Pentillie Castle in 1698, left instructions in his will that when he died he should not be buried, but instead be dressed in his best clothes, bound to a stout chair and placed with his books, wine and pipe in his favourite folly to await resurrection. As far as can be established from the historical accounts, his faithful servants carried out these instructions, and placed Sir James' body in his folly on Mount Ararat on the Pentillie Estate.

It is said that they continued to take wine

and food to the deceased for two years, until they could bear it no longer and had a marble statue erected in his place. None of the stories about this macabre routine relate exactly what happened to Sir James' (no doubt steadily decomposing) body when his servants decided to install a proxy. It has long been assumed that his remains were moved to Pillaton church nearby, where there is a very handsome marble wall tablet to his memory. Yet the building on Mount Ararat became known as the mausoleum, hinting that it was more than just an eccentric's abandoned folly. The structure is a square three-stage tower in a picturesque Gothic style, constructed of coursed rubble stone walls with dressed string



*Folly or tomb? The Pentille Mausoleum*

courses and crenulations. Inside, the statue of Sir James is placed on a podium decorated with carved skull and cross bones. The mausoleum is roofless and was, until recently, fast deteriorating.

The Coryton family inherited the Pentillie Estate in 2007 and their first priority was to restore the castle and grounds. Once this was complete they were able to turn their attention to the mausoleum and work on its restoration began in 2012. Ivy was cleared, walls repointed, cracks repaired and the crumbling castellations rebuilt. The statue of Sir James was removed to the studio of Cliveden Conservation in Bath for specialist restoration. But, before work could commence, a scaffold had to be raised inside the building and the floor needed stabilising. An exploratory hole was dug in the floor, revealing a brick built roof of a vaulted structure beneath. On further investigation, granite slabs were found to cover an area at one end of the vault, and on closer inspection steps were visible through the cracks. Before entering the chamber, burial and exhumation licenses were requested from the Ministry of Justice, in anticipation that there may be human remains beneath the floor.



*The statue of Sir James Tillie in the Mausoleum at Pentillie*

The proper documentation having been secured, the vault was opened. The flight of eight stone steps lead to a simple room with a stone floor and lime plastered walls. Propped up against the rear wall of the room were the remains of two wooden planks with metal studs arranged to depict letters. Further degraded planks were lying on the floor, beneath which human remains were recorded. This was unlikely to have been a coffin, however, for the planks appear to have been covered with leather and their arrangement within the room was unlike that which would be expected from a collapsed coffin.

Could they, instead, be the remains of a wooden chair?

The owner of the estate, Ted Coryton, felt there could be little doubt that the remains are those of Sir James Tillie and his chair, thought there is no trace of books or wine or a pipe. After raising a toast of estate-brewed sloe gin to Sir James, the vault was once again sealed by Ted and the restoration team. In due course the statue will be returned to its position looking out once more over the Tamar and surrounding countryside of which Sir James was so fond.

The mausoleum had seen little maintenance since its construction and the exploration has enabled English Heritage, Natural England and local conservation officers to collaborate with the Corytons on preserving this important monument. Financial assistance was generously provided by Natural England and the Country Houses Foundation.

**Sir James Tillie 1645 – 1713  
Rest in Peace**

## Events 2013

### THURSDAY 13 JUNE

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LECTURE

The Annual General Meeting will commence at 5.00 pm and be followed at approximately 5.30/5.45 pm by a guided tour of Kensal Green cemetery led by Gavin Stamp and Roger Bowdler.

At 7.00 pm a lecture entitled "**ACCOMMODATING THE DEAD: Social housing for Society's Last Unemancipated Group**" will be given by **ALEXANDER (Sandy) STODDART**, Sculptor in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland.

Alexander Stoddart works primarily on figurative sculpture within the neoclassical tradition and is best known for his civic monuments, including bronze statues of David Hume and Adam Smith, philosophers of the Scottish Enlightenment. During 2000-2002 he worked on architectural friezes interpreting Homeric themes in twentieth century Britain at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. He also works on busts of living figures, often fellow-classicists. See [www.alexanderstoddart.com](http://www.alexanderstoddart.com).

We are extremely fortunate in having Mr Stoddart as our speaker. His talk will be both interesting and informative, not to mention witty and entertaining. Please come and support the trust on this important occasion.

Drinks will be served from 4.45 pm.

Although we will take your payment on the day, it would be useful to know if you intend to be present. Please contact The Secretary [atinfo@mmtrust.org.uk](mailto:atinfo@mmtrust.org.uk) or telephone 07856 985974.

Cost: £10 members £15 non-members

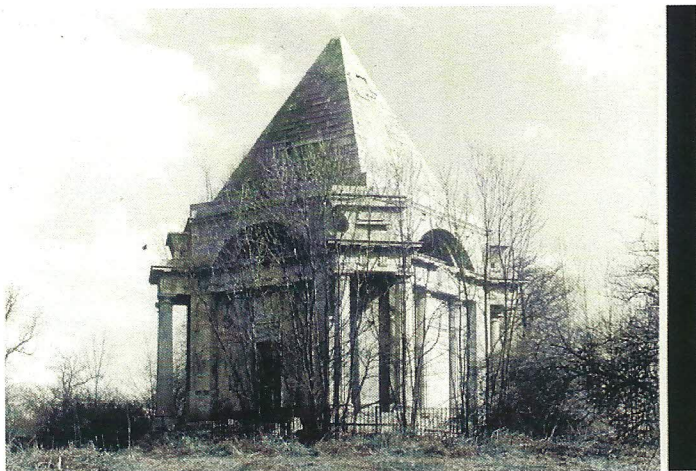
Venue: The Dissenters Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery, Harrow Road, London W10 5AA (Entrance for the Dissenters Chapel on Ladbroke Grove)

### SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

#### THE TOMB THAT NEVER WAS: the Darnley Mausoleum. Cobham, Kent

A visit to the newly restored Darnley mausoleum at Cobham in Kent, led by **Stephen Astley, Curator of Drawings, Sir John Soane's Museum**.

Following the death of the 3rd Earl of Darnley in 1781, the James Wyatt (1746-1813) was commissioned to design a mausoleum. The Earl had left specific instructions in his will for a 'prominent pyramid' to be erected as his final resting place. It is likely that the Earl was inspired by the well-known Pyramid of Cestius in Rome which he would have seen when he was in Italy on his Grand Tour between 1739 and 1740 (Wyatt had also travelled



in Italy between 1762 and 1768).

Following Wyatt's designs the Pyramid-mausoleum was built under the supervision of George Dance the Younger and was completed in 1786. However, the Earls' body never came to repose within the Mausoleum. Neither, for that matter, were any of his descendants interred in the crypt which had space for thirty two coffins. A quarrel with the Bishop of Rochester meant that the Mausoleum was never consecrated and remained empty. Instead it took on the role of an 'eye-catcher' in Cobham Hall's park. Following an arson attack in 1980 the Mausoleum was in serious decline. However, a recent restoration project under the auspices of the National Trust, English Heritage and the local authority has secured the Mausoleum's future.

Cost: £10 members £15 non-members (pay on the day)

Enquiries: 07856 985974

### 5 NOVEMBER

#### Jeremy Musson on Country Houses & Mausolea

Country house expert Jeremy Musson [www.jeremymusson.com](http://www.jeremymusson.com) will bring us up to date on the latest research on country house owners' view of death.

Expect verbal fireworks ... time, venue to be confirmed.

