

# MMT News 7

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

November 2003

## Restoring a Masterpiece

*Teresa Sladen reports on progress at the Sacheverell Bateman Mausoleum*



*Architect Mark Parsons of Anthony Short and Partners plays detective at the Bateman Mausoleum*

The restoration of the iron gates protecting the door of the Sacheverell-Bateman mausoleum is nearing completion. The work is being carried out under the supervision of our architect, Mark Parsons of Anthony Short and Partners, by Andrew Renwick of Ridgeway Forge.

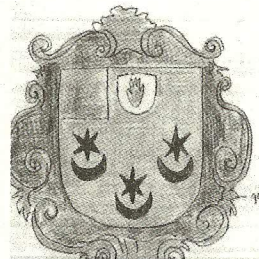
In addition to the repairs to the ironwork itself, the colours of the historic paintwork have been investigated. For this purpose, a paint conservator, Catherine Hassall, took in situ photographs of the gates, cut sections through the paint and analysed the historic layers. This

established that the original colour of the ironwork was dark green with a limited amount of gilding. The extent of the re-gilding to be carried out will be agreed with English Heritage.

The copper shield, which Mark is examining with a magnifying glass in the photograph, was much more elaborately decorated than the ironwork. The only parts of the shield not to receive a layer of initial gilding were the square in the upper left corner and the shield with the hand. The square was painted blue, and the background of the shield with the hand was painted white. The other coloured layers were applied over the gilding; the crescents, central star and the hand were painted red, and the recessed border of the shield black.

Mr Morgan-Owen, a local specialist, has also been consulted on the paintwork and, before going ahead with the redecoration of the shield, we will be asking Max Cravens Derby Armorials and other bodies, including the Royal College of Arms, about the precise colours we should use for the heraldry.

The final stage of the repair programme is the restoration of the fine stained glass windows by Burlison and Grylls. We are going out to tender on this now and will be putting the work in hand in the spring. With any luck all should be finished in time for a grand opening ceremony in the summer. All our friends will then be invited to celebrate the completion of this project carried out as a tribute to our late foundress, Jill Allibone.



*Sketch of Sacheverell Bateman coat of arms*

