

THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST

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WEST COUNTRY VISIT

On Saturday 24th April MMT 13 members enjoyed a visit to the West Country.

The day began at Bicton Church a delightful Victorian church adjacent to the former estate of the Rolle family. It was built as an estate church in 1850 by Lady Rolle who, according to our guide, was meticulous in ensuring that the estate workers attended church on Sunday even allocating numbers to the pews so that she was able to identify and follow up on absentees. Sadly the church is now unattended, has no services and is likely to become redundant. Sad because it's a marvellous example of an untouched Victorian church, largely unchanged since it was built and strangely containing no monuments of any kind, even to the Rolle family.



Alongside the church is the Rolle Mausoleum by Pugin. A beautiful example of a romantic mausoleum incorporated into the remains of a previous church on the site. Opened especially for the MMT's visit, it contains the remains of many of the Rolle family but equally many of the family are buried outside, having taken a dislike to interment in a mausoleum. It is a striking example of Pugin's work largely forgotten.

The group then moved on to Hinton St George to see the church, the history of which owes much to the Poulett family. The family lived at Hinton House until the 1960s when they moved to Jersey. The church is full of exuberant and large monuments to them (one

even relocated from a London church). The 8th and last Earl Poulett died in 1973 and was interred in the vault beneath their chapel in the church. The vault is still in remarkable condition and contains most family members. Never open to the public, one is startled to discover the coronet of one countess still resplendent on her coffin.

After lunch it was onward to Rampisham to see another small but remarkable example of Pugin's work. He designed the font and gave it to the church's then new vicar. He was later engaged to redesign the chancel. The ceiling, although obviously Pugin, is strangely plain for him. He went on to design a new rectory for Rampisham, now privately owned but regarded as another of his masterpieces. The church also shows evidence of Thomas Hardy's early work as an architect.

The day concluded with a short visit to Cattistock church only two miles from Rampisham. Its tower and chancel are by Gilbert Scott father and son (*Great Scott and Middle Scott*). Newly refurbished it dominates the surrounding countryside.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2010 Annual General Meeting will be held in The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, EC1 on Wednesday 9 June, 6.30 for 7.00 pm. It will be followed by a presentation on the progress of the proposed restoration of Thomas Hope's mausoleum at The Deepdene, Dorking. Please note this important date in your diary.

The Secretary

BOOK REVIEW

Geoff Archer, *The Glorious Dead: Figurative Sculpture of British First World War Memorials*. Frontier Publishing, 2009. 416 pp, softback. £30. www.frontierpublishing.co.uk

All members of the MMT will be interested in the appearance of this book. Geoff Archer has travelled far and looked hard, collecting fine photographs of WW1 memorials, and grouping them under themes in a very informative narrative. The 274 images are mainly of impressive sculpted monuments, but within their midst are postcards and other graphic images, neatly linking the memorials to the ideas and visions of their day. All of us have our local favorites - not a day goes by without my paying homage to Alfred Tofts' Royal Fusiliers

statue in London's Holborn. But it is another thing altogether to realise the sheer scale and quality of the great campaign of monument-making which followed the Armistice of 1918. Archer gives us outline biographies of sculptors; iconographic themes are explored; military realities set out; considered value judgments are plentiful too, offsetting any accusation of blind jingoism. Nothing is taken for granted like the public monument: perhaps this book will make more of us stop awhile to tease out the meaning of these memorials, and make sure they are receiving due care as well. This is the best survey to date of an extraordinary group of heartfelt works, and is highly recommended to all.

Roger Bowdler

Norman Shaw's tomb



The fine table tomb in Hampstead churchyard to the great Victorian architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831–1912) has been mouldering for years. A restoration project is now under way and is in the hands of Cliveden Conservation, experts in this type of work.

The tomb, said to have been modelled on one in Fairford churchyard, was erected in 1913 to the designs of Ernest Newton, a former chief assistant of Shaw's. It replaced a Gothic Revival tomb by Shaw himself,

put up when his older brother died in the 1860s. Shaw had long been dissatisfied with this memorial by the time of his death. But the Portland stone of the Newton tomb has not worn well, partly because of the proximity of a yew tree, and the inscriptions were becoming illegible. This is a common problem throughout the lower churchyard at Hampstead.

As the tomb is listed, permission for the works had to be sought from Camden Council, who manage Hampstead churchyard, as well as from the churchwardens. Both have been supportive. Interestingly, once the specification was submitted, it was agreed that as everything was being done on a like-for-like basis, the restoration would not need formal listed building consent.

THE WAUCHOPE MAUSOLEUM, EDINBURGH

The 18th century Niddrie-Marischal or Wauchope Mausoleum on Niddrie House Drive, Edinburgh is an Ancient Monument and a Listed Building. The Wauchope family were the lairds of the area for over 600 years with their estate at Niddrie-Marischal House. However, following a fire, Niddrie-Marischal House was demolished in 1968, and all that now remains is the mausoleum which is surrounded by the Niddrie housing development.

The mausoleum has been the subject of local community interest and local residents have recently been involved in clearing vegetation from

Thanks to a generous grant from the Royal Academy, of which Shaw was a stalwart member, the basic conservation work of repairing and cleaning the monument has now been completed. The second stage is that of recutting the inscriptions on three sides of the tomb. This has involved taking the eroded surfaces right back to a smooth plane and completely recutting, using an experienced letter cutter employed by Cliveden Conservation. The cost for this stage, including VAT, will come to almost £4,500 and must now be raised. The Shaw family is willing to find a third of this, as am I, and we are appealing for the remaining the last £1,500. £250 has already been received, and another five such donations would meet the local target, though smaller gifts would of course be very welcome.

Please contact me on ajs61@cam.ac.uk, or at 14 Denny Crescent, London SE11 4UY.

Andrew Saint

around the building which has significantly improved access. The City Council has now commissioned a conservation plan for the mausoleum at a cost of £4,800. This will contribute to informed decision making on the care of the building and assist in applying for financial assistance to undertake conservation work. It is intended that the local community and schools will be involved in future plans for the mausoleum.

Jack Gillon, City of Edinburgh Council

NB: The MMT is considering organising a trip to Edinburgh for its members. Expressions of interest, no commitment required at this stage, to The Secretary please.

SUPPORT THE MMT ONLINE

The Trust now has an online donations page at www.justgiving.com/mausoleamonuments/donate. We've set up the page to support our fundraising for the rescue of Thomas Hope's Mausoleum at The Deepdene, Dorking, Surrey, but all donations for the Trust's work will be gratefully received.

CEMETERY OPEN DAYS 2010

Brompton Cemetery:

Saturday 1 May - Monday 3 May.
Discovering Places weekend with Chapel open from 1pm-5pm, with a full guided tour at 2pm on each day.

Nunhead Cemetery:

Saturday 15 May from 11a.m. to 5p.m.

Kensal Green Cemetery:

Saturday 3 July from 11.00am. Includes tours of the Cemetery and Catacomb.

Heritage Open Days (outside London):

Thursday 9 - Sunday 12 September.

Open House London:

18 & 19 September

SEE THE HOPE MAUSOLEUM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS!

Members are invited to visit the Mausoleum of Thomas Hope, which the Mausolea & Monuments Trust is campaigning to rescue. Thomas Hope (1769–1831) is recognised internationally as one of great figures in 19th century taste. His country house, The Deepdene near Dorking in Surrey, was demolished in 1969, but one singular building remains: the Mausoleum he built to house the body of his young son Charles who died in 1818. This massive archaic Greek structure lies in a picturesque dell within the grounds of The Deepdene, but was neglected and then

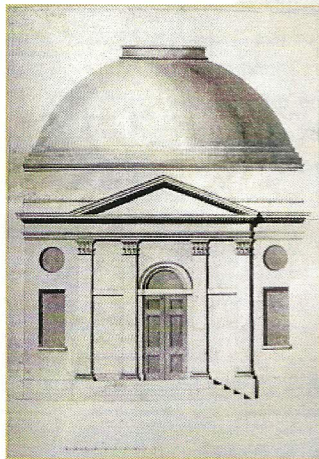
part-buried in the 1960s. As Hope's only extant building, the Hope Mausoleum deserves respect as the place of his burial, as well as being an extraordinary instance of the Neoclassical way of death.

Excavation work is underway, and two visits have been organised for members to witness progress: at 10am on 6 June and 14th August. Please email alexander.bagnall@molevalley.gov.uk to reserve a place.

The visit is free, but we ask that members make a contribution to our restoration fund via <http://www.justgiving.com/HopeSpringsEternal>. There will be more on the campaign in the next issue of the newsletter.

THE DARTREY MAUSOLEUM, Co. MONAGHAN, IRELAND

The story of how one of England's most talented young architects and the official Sculptor to King George III came to be commissioned by a grieving Irish husband to design one of the most important mausolea in Ireland as a poignant tribute to his English wife is an intriguing one; although not yet fully unravelled, it involved three major country houses, one Irish and two English, and their families. A more recent chapter in the story tells how this beautiful building, hidden deep in the Co. Monaghan countryside, became a complete ruin. Happily the mausoleum is at last now undergoing repair and conservation, after having become derelict and roofless since the last war.



Unsigned and undated design for the front elevation of the Dartrey Mausoleum, Co. Monaghan (MURRAY COLLECTION, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND)

The young Lady Anne Fermor was married to the merchant banker Thomas Dawson in 1754, and died aged only 36 on 1st March 1769. She was the youngest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Pomfret, of Easton Neston, Northamptonshire, a house designed by Sir Christopher Wren and his pupil Nicholas Hawksmoor in the 1690s. The family was clearly interested in architecture, and in 1758 the widowed Lady Pomfret built the early Gothic Revival Pomfret Castle (demolished 1920) just off Piccadilly; Lady Anne and Thomas Dawson must have known

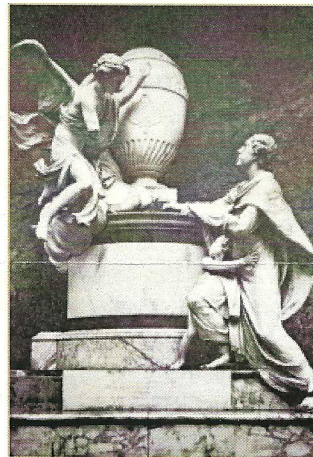
that very well.

Soon after his wife's early death, Dawson decided to commemorate her by constructing a building to her memory – and probably to contain her corpse. Possibly through a family connection that has not yet been fully established, he seems to have given the commission to the young James Wyatt (1746-1813), who was just starting his career in London, having returned in 1768 after studying for six years in Rome to work for his older brother Samuel. His very first building, in 1769, was the Pantheon, an Assembly Room in London's Oxford Street. Horace Walpole called it 'the most beautiful edifice in England', and it was an instant success when it opened in 1772, making Wyatt's reputation. Based on the Pantheon in Rome, it was demolished in 1937, and Marks and Spencer's store now occupies the site.

Dawson, ennobled as Baron Dartrey in May 1770, must have approached Wyatt soon after Lady Anne died; although no documents have yet come to light to confirm this, the late Sir Howard Colvin attributed the design to Wyatt. If this attribution is correct, then the Dawson Temple is probably the architect's next building, although its exact date is not yet known. Unsigned and undated drawings showing its front elevation are in the Murray Collection of drawings at Dublin's National Library; it is a miniature version of the

Pantheon, designed to be seen across the park and lake from the house, Dawson's Grove, and also to house a memorial sculpture to Lady Anne.

The Roman Pantheon is a large circular domed structure, entered through an attached temple front or portico, and lit only by a large open oculus in the centre of its dome; Dawson obviously wanted the same. On clear nights the moonlight would shine down with breathtaking effect through the oculus onto the only object in the building – the magnificent memorial sculpture of Dawson, their son and an angel, grouped dramatically around the huge urn supposedly containing Lady Anne's ashes. This would remind Dawson of his young wife – despite the fact that just over a year of Anne's death and before work started on her mausoleum he remarried.



Sculpture in Dartrey Temple, c.1960, Co. Monaghan (PRIVATE COLLECTION)

The sculpture, a vitally integral part of the original concept and design, was designed and carved by Joseph Wilton (1722-1803), one of the finest sculptors in the British Isles, who had been appointed 'Sculptor to His Majesty' by King George III in 1764. Although this, his only work in Ireland for which he was paid 1000 guineas, still survives, it has been very badly vandalised. Wilton's design drawing is still in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Hibernian Journal announced in its issue of 19th August 1774:

'A few days ago was landed in Dublin a beautiful Marble Monument done by Joseph Wilton, Esq., of Portland Street, London, which Lord Dartrey is to erect in a Temple at his seat in Co. Monaghan, to the memory of his late wife, Lady Anne Dawson, daughter of the late Earl of Pomfret.'

Dawson clearly wanted, and paid for, the best designers possible when commemorating his wife. But Lady Anne was not buried there, but was laid to rest in St. John's Church near the house. Nor was this rest was for long: in 1798, as a result of Dawson's worries about the Wexford Rebellion, her remains, with those of their children, were exhumed and taken to Stoke Poges Church in Buckinghamshire.

There is a curious link between Dawson's two wives – Lady Anne's older sister, Lady Juliana Fermor, was the wife of John Penn, owner of that estate, who was the son

