



MMT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST
N° 20

November 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A well-attended memorial service at St. Margaret's Westminster on October 6 demonstrated the esteem in which our late Chairman, the architectural historian Dr. Thomas Cocke, was held by friends and colleagues from every phase of his life and work. Learned, liked and respected, Thomas was an important figure in British church circles, and his death has knocked us all. If any trust can come to terms with mortality, it ought to be the MMT. We seek to carry on the good work of the late Jill and David Allibone, Sir Howard Colvin and Dr. Cocke through our endeavours.

In November, a memorable evening was held in their memory at Malplaquet House, the home of our new patron, Tim Knox, Director of Sir John Soane's Museum, and landscape architect Todd Longstaffe-Gowan. We raised significant funds, and enjoyed ourselves greatly in this miraculous house of curiosities, a rare survival of a Georgian merchant's home in Stepney. We think that the shades of the departed would have appreciated it.

Not surprisingly, then, this has been a time of taking stock. Now in our fourteenth year, the Trust sometimes needs to review our activities and decide exactly what it is that we wish to do. Do we go on becoming a home of last resort for unloved mausolea? Should we think about looking after monuments too? Should we spend more of our energies helping others take the lead on projects? Should we work harder at events? (In that respect, it would be good to hear from members what sort of events they would value and attend.)

Our visit to West Norwood Cemetery on September 27 was really enjoyable, and we send our warmest thanks to Dr. Bob

The mortuary chapel built at West Norwood by Stephen and Marietta Ralli in memory of their son Augustus, who died at Eton from rheumatic fever at the age of 18; Grade 2 Listed, attributed to John Oldrid Scott (1841-1913).

PHOTO: MMT GAZETTEER



