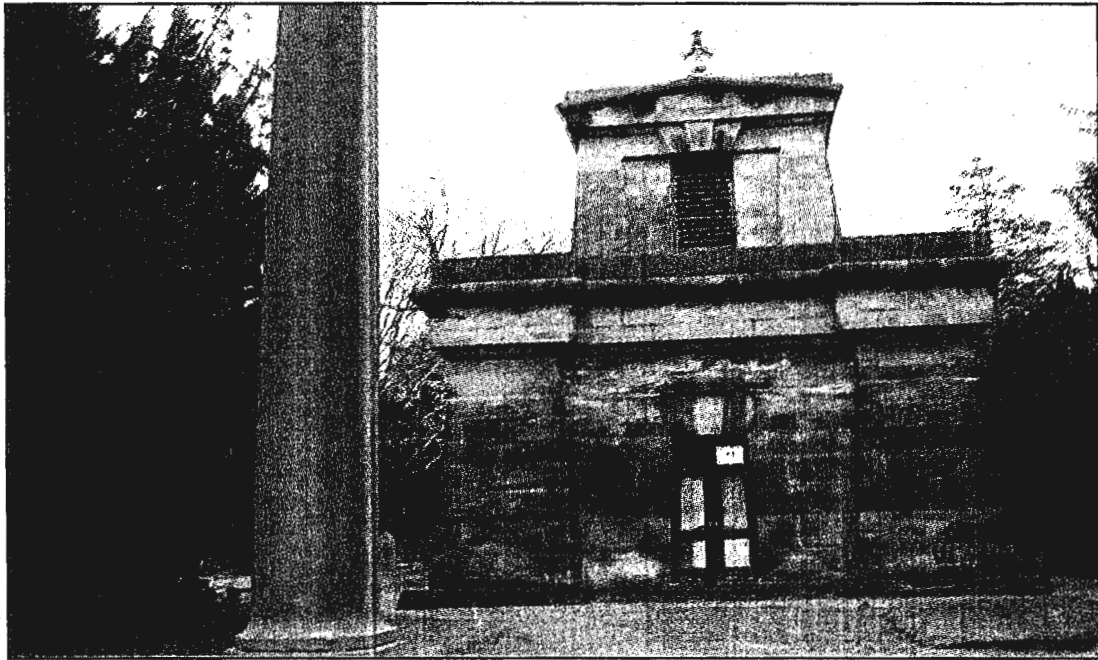


Grants for city's only Grade I building

Mausoleum gets

funding lifeline



UNIQUE:
Trentham
Mausoleum
is the only
Grade
I-listed
building in
Stoke-on-
Trent

BY DAVID JOHNSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

A £140,000 cash injection has safeguarded the immediate future of the only Grade I-listed building in Stoke-on-Trent.

The Trentham Mausoleum, on the A34 opposite Trentham Gardens, is falling into disrepair and experts said it was in danger of being damaged beyond repair.

But now Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Government body English Heritage have agreed to plough £140,000 into the monument to stop further deterioration.

Elected mayor Mike Wolfe said: "We cannot yet afford to solve all the mausoleum's problems but in view of its considerable historic importance — and its status as the city's sole Grade I-listed building — it is unac-

ceptable for it to be allowed to deteriorate unchecked.

"Therefore, we are going to carry out essential repair work now which should at least make sure the building survives.

"Officers have worked extremely hard to put together a package that will mean we can help out and I am very grateful for their efforts."

English Heritage has put up £112,000 of the cash pot, with the city council finding the remaining £28,000.

The council will now try to raise more money for repairs to the main door, window and stonework and it is investigating turning the mausoleum into a remembrance garden.

Mr Wolfe added: "A city is judged on a variety of factors and one of these is undoubtedly the importance it places on its historic environment.

"Trentham Mausoleum is a nation-

ally, if not internationally, important building and it is the only Grade I-listed building in the city."

The architectural gem was built in 1808 for the Marquis of Stafford — owner of nearby Trentham Park — as the final resting place for family members.

English Heritage gave the building a Grade I listing in 1972 in recognition of its architectural importance.

Historian Fred Hughes welcomed the funding package to safeguard the old building from further deterioration.

He said: "The city council is wise to take this opportunity to invest in what is sadly our only Grade I-listed building.

"Historically it is of minimal importance but architecturally it deserves saving."

david.johnson@thesentinel.co.uk