



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 25 July 2016

Capability Brown Festival 2016

Special events across Yorkshire for 'Capability' Brown's birthday month of August

2016 marks the 300th anniversary of 18th century landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, whose birthday falls this August, which coincides with 'Yorkshire Day' which falls on 1 August. The nationwide Capability Brown Festival celebrates the life, work and legacy of England's most famous gardener, often dubbed the '*Shakespeare of gardening*' and the '*grandfather of landscape architecture*'. Brown's client list included one King, six Prime Ministers and half of the House of Lords. Though despite his impressive client list, reputation and worldwide influence, Brown was also a man of mystery: his exact date of his birth in August is unknown, though there are records showing he was baptised at St Wilfred's Church in Kirkharle, Northumberland, on 30th August 1716.

Brown is associated with more than 250 landscapes across England and Wales, including 18 estates across Yorkshire, including Harewood House (near Leeds), Burton Constable (near Hull), Wentworth Castle Gardens (near Barnsley) and Scampston (between York and Scarborough). To add to the celebrations across England's largest county, the people of Yorkshire will also be celebrating 'Yorkshire Day' (which celebrates all things Yorkshire) on 1 August, coinciding with the beginning of Brown's birthday month.

Ceryl Evans, Director of the Capability Brown Festival says: "Brown's work across Yorkshire is impressive – we see examples of his influence across the whole county, from Temple Newsam in the West to Burton Constable in the East, which back in the 18th century wouldn't have been easy to manage, whether in terms of the geographical spread of his client portfolio, or the practical difficulties of travelling around the country! Brown was not just a landscape architect; he was an engineer, entrepreneur, salesman and an extremely effective businessman too. It was the combination of these skills which led to his success not only in Yorkshire, but across England and Wales too, and what better time to celebrate this accomplishment than in his birthday month."

This year the Capability Brown Festival has, and continues to see, a myriad of events including exhibitions, guided walks, musical and theatrical performances and family friendly events held at many of his landscapes across England and Wales. This August, to celebrate Brown's birthday month there are many events taking place across Yorkshire, including:

Exhibition: Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape
Mercer Art Gallery, near Harrogate (NB: not a Brown landscape)
1-31 August 2016 (continues into September)

The first ever exhibition dedicated to Brown's landscapes in Yorkshire
<http://bit.ly/29wNamQ>

Exhibition: Nature, Design and Capability Brown

Harewood House, near Leeds

1-31 August 2016 (continues into October)

Learn about the Brownian parkland and the evolution of this landscape through this exhibition

<http://bit.ly/29DHfMh>

Capabili-Teas at Scampston

Scampston, near York

6-7 August 2016

Celebrate Brown's birthday month with a Georgian style afternoon tea

<http://bit.ly/29P6CA5>

Terrific Trees Treasure Hunt

Scampston, near York

16-31 August 2016

Pick up a treasure map and seek out some of the curious trees planted by Brown

<http://bit.ly/29Rx20w>

Exhibition: It's not all Brown and White at Burton Constable

Burton Constable, near Hull

1-31 August 2016 (continues into December)

This exhibition displays a range of original proposals, along with 'Mr Brown's Directions' – a unique series of minutes revealing an insight into Brown's plans for Burton Constable from the 1700s

<http://bit.ly/29GhXBB>

Country House Brewing

Burton Constable, near Hull

1-31 August 2016 (continues into December)

Learn about how beer was brewed in the 1700s by visiting this exhibition in Capability Brown's original Brewhouse

<http://bit.ly/2a2e5Kh>

Exhibition: Landscapes of Temple Newsam

Temple Newsam, near Leeds

1-31 August 2016 (continues into October)

Members of the Embroiderers' Guild display unique pieces of textile and stitch artwork inspired by Brown

<http://bit.ly/29lZmQy>

Capability Brown's Birthday Party

Temple Newsam, near Leeds

30 August 2016

Join the 300th anniversary celebrations of Brown's birth at Temple Newsam

<http://bit.ly/29HJpew>

Ceryl Evans concludes: "There are many ways in which the Capability Brown Festival will celebrate life and legacy of Capability Brown during his birthday month, and throughout August we look forward to seeing visitors enjoying and engaging with his life's work and admiring his many impressive landscapes that are still so prominent in the English countryside today."

For further details of events taking place this summer for the Capability Brown Festival 2016, or to find a Brown landscape near you, visit: www.capabilitybrown.org

- ENDS -

NOTES TO EDITORS

For a press pack, or to arrange interviews and request information and images please contact Adela Cragg, Susannah Penn or Jane Bevan at Firebird PR on 01235 835297 / 07977 459547 or via email to pressoffice@capabilitybrown.org

About the Capability Brown Festival 2016

- The Capability Brown Festival unites 21 partner organisations in the UK's largest festival of its kind to date. It marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in August 1716.
- The Festival is managed by the Landscape Institute and is funded with a £911,100 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with additional match funding and funding in kind from the Festival's partners and supporters.
- Many Brown sites, including those not normally open to the public, will host special events, tours and activities throughout 2016.
- More information can be found at www.capabilitybrown.org or @BrownCapability

About The Landscape Institute

The Landscape Institute manages the Capability Brown Festival on behalf of the Festival Partnership. The Landscape Institute is the Royal Chartered institute for landscape architects. As a professional body and educational charity, it works to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the public benefit. www.landscapeinstitute.org or @talklandscape

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk or @heritagelottery