



PRESS RELEASE

New TV series sparks interest in Capability Brown Festival 2016

A new TV series on Lancelot 'Capability' Brown starts on More4 next week, with viewers encouraged to find out more about the 2016 Festival celebrating his life and work.

Brown, often called the 'father of landscape architecture,' changed the national landscape. He moved hills, and sometimes even entire villages, to create the serpentine waterways and rolling vistas that have come to epitomise the English countryside ideal.

Next year marks the 300th anniversary of Brown's birth, which is being marked by a nationwide Festival. The Capability Brown Festival 2016 will encourage new audiences to visit, learn about, and enjoy his landscapes, and is managed by the Landscape Institute.

The three-part TV series starts on More4 at 9pm on Thursday 17 September. Called *Titchmarsh on Capability Brown*, it is hosted by gardener and broadcaster Alan Titchmarsh, and produced by Spun Gold.

The first episode features Belvoir Castle, and follows the Duchess of Rutland's work to bring Brown's original, unexecuted plans for the landscape to life. This work has been documented in the Duchess' new book, *Capability Brown & Belvoir*, which is available for pre-order on the Belvoir Castle website. Belvoir Castle is in Leicestershire, and is a member of the Historic Houses Association.

In the programme Alan also travels to Stowe in Buckinghamshire, cared for by the National Trust and one of Brown's first big commissions, and Kirkhale in Northumberland, where Brown was born and learned his trade.

Ceryl Evans, Director of the Capability Brown Festival 2016, said: "It's fantastic to see Capability Brown getting such good exposure on More4, and I'm sure the programme will really spark interest in him, and the Capability Brown Festival 2016.

"Our Festival will bring together a huge range of openings, events and exhibitions, as well as sparking new research in to Brown sites. We're really excited about what's in store.

“2016 is going to be the year of Capability Brown, so I’d encourage everyone who watches the series to visit our website, www.capabilitybrown.org, to find out more and get involved.”

The Festival has been funded by a £911,100 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund with the wider project worth in the region of £1.7million. Much of this represents match funding, and funding in kind, from the Festival’s partners and supporters.

There are more than 250 sites associated with Brown across England, with a small handful in Wales. The sites range from small private gardens to larger country estates, and include 12 public parks, some schools and hotels. Many are managed by members of the Historic Houses Association, the National Trust, and English Heritage. An [interactive map](#) of the Brown sites can be found on the Festival’s website.

The Festival can also be followed on Twitter, @BrownCapability.

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For further information contact Laura Smith, Capability Brown Festival Research, Publications and Communications Officer on 0207 6852660, or by email at laura.smith@capabilitybrown.org.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Capability Brown Festival 2016

More information about Brown, and the 2016 Festival, can be found in the accompanying press pack. Images are available on request.

The idea of a festival celebrating Capability Brown was inspired by John Phibbs, a leading Brown expert. John has just launched a blog on Brown, which can be found at <http://thebrownadvisor.com/>.

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.

Useful links

For more information on Belvoir Castle, go to www.belvoircastle.com

For more information on Stowe, go to <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe/>

For more information on Kirkhale, go to <http://kirkharlecourtyard.co.uk/>

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

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