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Date: Thursday 29 March

## **IT'S ALL WORK AND PLAY AT TEMPLE NEWSAM**

A new major exhibition at Temple Newsam shows that it really is the people that make a place as it delves into the lives of those who helped to shape the English country house estate.

*Work & Play*, which opens on 3 April at Temple Newsam, goes behind-the-scenes to take a look at the characters and communities who both lived and worked on the estate. Uncovering diaries, letters, photographs and oral history accounts, the exhibition brings to life the experiences of the many people who lived on the estate. From farmers and foresters to miners and mole catchers, the House and the great outdoors will be revealed.

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**\*\*\* MEDIA OPPORTUNITY \*\*\***

The exhibition will officially open on Tuesday 3 April. Doors open at 6pm, followed by short speeches and a concert at 6.30pm. An actor performing as 'Capability Brown' will be in attendance. To attend please contact Lisa Grant on 0113 24 78391 or email [lisa.grant@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.grant@leeds.gov.uk). Media are welcome to pre-view the exhibition during the day prior to the launch.

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Highlights of the exhibition include an audio testimony by Leeds playwright Alan Bennett who gives an amusing account of when he frequently visited Temple Newsam by bicycle, as a boy, in the 1940s. A former coal miner and tenant of the Estate also give fascinating accounts of their time at Temple Newsam. A star piece of the exhibition is a 3D model of the entire estate in the 1700s, built from the original plans of the famous landscape gardener, Capability Brown.

**Learning and Leisure Marketing, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor West, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Way, Leeds LS2 8DT**  
**Tel (0113) 247 8907 Fax (0113) 224 3955**  
**For more news and information from Leeds City Council visit [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk)**

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The exhibition is pioneered by the Yorkshire Country House Partnership and is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Work & Play will cover both the House and beautiful estate to reveal the ways in which the country house was the beating heart of the community providing church, education, charity, old age care and on special occasions – entertainment.

A series of special activities and events will also be presented to co-ordinate with the exhibition including 'Living History Days' on 7 – 9 April and 5 - 7 and 26 – 28 May. History will come to life as characters from Temple Newsam's past, such as Capability Brown and Sarah Herbert, the dairy maid, talk about their involvement with the estate. All welcome. No booking is required.

**Executive Board Member for Leisure Councillor John Procter said:**

“Through working collaboratively with the Yorkshire Country House Partnership this exhibition has worked towards engaging and involving people in the cultural heritage of the city. The exhibition uncovers many fascinating and insightful memoirs about the people who contributed to Temple Newsam and brings the history of the one of our city's much-loved and beautiful visitor attractions to life.”

Work & Play: Life on the Country House Estate runs from 3 April – 31 October. Admission to the House is £3.50 adults, £2.50 child and £9 family tickets. Farm admission is £3 adults, £2 children and £8 family tickets. Joint tickets to the House & Farm are £14. For visitor information visit [www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam) or contact the House on 0113 264 7321 or Estate on 0113 264 5535.

**Ends**

**For all media enquires please contact Lisa Grant, Marketing & Communication on 0113 24 78391 or [lisa.grant@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.grant@leeds.gov.uk)**

Images available on request

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**Notes to Editors:****Yorkshire Country House Partnership**

The Yorkshire Country House Partnership is a collaborative research venture between the country houses of Yorkshire and the University of York. Work & Play at Temple Newsam is one of four interlinking exhibitions in collaboration with Brodsworth Hall, near Doncaster, Burton Constable, near Beverley and Hull, and Harewood House, near Harrogate. Work & Play follows on from the huge popular success and critical acclaim of 'Maids & Mistresses' which took place across country houses in the region in 2004.

The exhibition is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, through the 'Your Heritage' scheme, which aims to engage people in the history of their local landmarks and cultural heritage.

**Launch event: Tuesday 3 April – 6pm**

6pm: doors open.

6.30pm:

Short speeches by:

Lord Halifax, President of the Leeds Art Collections Fund

Denise Preston, Chief Recreation Officer

John Role, Head of Heritage

Followed by a concert by Ad Hoc Baroque who will be performing 'In these Arcadian Groves: Landscape as inspiration and metaphor.'

7.30pm: Wine and light refreshments.

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