



PRESS RELEASE

HAREWOOD REVEALS FIRST PART OF 2021 UP+OPEN PROGRAMME WITH A FOCUS ON WELLBEING, CULTURE OUTDOORS AND OPEN HISTORY

Yorkshire's 2020 Large Visitor Attraction of the Year is open throughout the week once more as Harewood House Trust invites everyone to enjoy its 250-year-old House and its Gardens, Bird Garden, Play and parkland. Aiming to inspire and enrich, it today announces a programme to help us all recover from the ongoing effects of Covid-19, opening up new parts of the site for the first time with a brand new circular walk, and continues to push the agenda in being open about its past, calling out racism, and reiterating that Harewood is a place open for all.

UP+OPEN: GET OUTDOORS, FIND YOUR WELLBEING

Harewood's spring season has begun, welcoming people back to enjoy its beautiful surroundings bursting into spring life, its gardens coming into bud, and to find a moment of respite from the last year. In line with dates to be re-confirmed by government, from **Monday 29 March** there's no better place to re-meet friends and family as the rule of six comes back into play; our Courtyard Café, run by the Harewood Food & Drink Project, will be open again (for take away only until 17 May). The Harewood Bird Garden, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, will open on **Monday 12 April**, along with the Courtyard Shop.

Together We Are, by graphic artist **Anthony Burrill**, launches a **brand new three mile circular walk** (see below) taking in Harewood's North Woods featuring this latest commission. **Opening in mid-May** and featuring six unique flag artworks, Burrill's work will encourage moments of mindfulness, giving pause for thought set against a backdrop of stunning views of Harewood and beyond.

The circular **Big Harewood Walk** unlocks brand new parts of the site for the first time. Split into three sections – the North Woods, the South View and the Lakeside Tour – the circular route will take in **All Saints' Church** with its beautifully-crafted alabaster tombs and a **secret tunnel** in the North Woods, with our **Horsebox** newly relocated for an energy-boosting treat; it will open up Harewood's **East Terrace and South View for the very first time**, and link up with the Lakeside Tour which takes in the Bird Garden, Himalayan Garden, Bothy and Walled Garden.

Pop-up play is back after being such a big hit last summer with children and grown-ups alike. Harewood's **Woodland Wonderland** features **willow mazes and tunnels** by artist **Leilah Vyner**, nestled next to the Church, opening up yet more of this beautiful site for families to adventure into.

UP+OPEN: OPEN HISTORY

Harewood's Open History programme is part of our commitment to bring our past to life. Being transparent about colonial history and ensuring the Trust hosts much-needed, and sometimes difficult, conversations is vital to calling out racism, and to forge new connections with visitors and the communities of the cities and countryside around us. Open History is therefore devised to engage our audiences with the urgent issues of our time, and aims to engender empathy and understanding of these issues in order to celebrate diversity.

Harewood have teamed up with Leeds-based DSRG (the Diasporian Stories Research Group) to bring to life the story of Harewood's first black member of staff, **George 'Bertie' Robinson**, who travelled with the 5th Earl and Countess from St Vincent to Leeds aged 13 to work for the Lascelles family. The display, **Bertie Robinson: The Footman from St Vincent**, which launches in the Yellow Drawing Room from 17 May, is part of an annual series which will celebrate and share the histories of people of African descent with Yorkshire connections throughout history. Bertie lived at Harewood from 1893–1922. Letters, diaries and photographs chart his life, as well as exploring some of the Lascelles' links to the West Indies, the history of St Vincent, and attitudes towards people of colour at that time.

Launching in early summer, **Heritage Corner** bring their unique brand of insightful Black History Walks to Harewood following the success of their regular events in Leeds City Centre. In their walking story – **A Storm at Harewood**, stretched across the House and Grounds – Joe Williams and Vanessa Mudd explore inspiring black history and hidden connections to the splendours of Harewood in an imaginative, fun and family-friendly way. Walks go on sale from mid-April.

The Trust looks forward to revealing more aspects of its Open History programme later in the year, as part of its continued commitment to combating racism.

UP+OPEN: HAREWOOD UNLIMITED

In the coming weeks, we will unveil a new series of exclusive opportunities to experience Harewood in **UNLIMITED** ways. Summer twilights on the Terrace with live music and great food, bird watching tours, behind-the-scenes access to Harewood's Attic Rooms and Below Stairs, early evening boat trips with fizz joined by expert zoologists and gardeners, curator tours and more will give audiences fascinating ways to explore Harewood like never before.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Harewood will be the first venue to host **MAMMA MIA!** in an outdoor performance of this West End hit from 13 to 30 August. The feel-good musical, now in its 22nd year, gives families and friends a great opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled show with Harewood as its stunning backdrop, whilst enjoying great food and drink under open skies.

Much missed last year, the **Great British Food Festival** returns for the late spring bank holiday weekend from Saturday 29 to Monday 31 May. **The Luna Drive-In Cinema** makes a welcome return between 3 and 21 June bringing more box office hits to Harewood, plus more **Outdoor Theatre** will be announced for the summer months.

Jane Marriott, Trust Director comments:

'Covid-19 has changed, perhaps permanently, how we live and how we enjoy our time. After such a difficult year, we are delighted to welcome everyone back to Harewood for our UP+OPEN 2021 programme to take advantage of our wonderful site to its fullest – discover new parts of Harewood they've never seen before and offer a timely moment for both fun and exploration, or more mindful calm and respite.

'Our Open History programme continues our commitment to being open and transparent about Harewood's past as part of bigger commitment to ensure Harewood is a place for everyone. We cannot change the past, but we can use it as a stark, unequivocal truth to build a fairer, equal future.'

Tickets for Harewood's 2021 season are now on sale, with tickets for 17 May onwards being released as and when the government moves forwards with its roadmap.

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Harewood House Trust

Harewood, Leeds LS17 9LG

harewood.org | 0113 218 1000

Registered charity in England no 517753

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LISTINGS

Harewood 2021 Season Opening

Friday 19 March 2021 to Sunday 2 January 2022

10am–6pm daily, last admission 4.45pm

(alternate winter opening hours apply from end October)

Online booking essential at harewood.org – tickets currently on sale up to Sunday 16 May

Entry prices from £13.95 adult / £7.65 child / Under 4s free / Members free

Family and group booking discounts apply

Government roadmap details

Step 1 (29 March earliest) – visitors can attend in groups of six or two households, whichever is larger. Café re-opens for take away only.

Step 2 (12 April earliest) – Courtyard, Bird Garden, Shop re-open.

Step 3 (17 May earliest) – House, Terrace Café and House Shop re-open, alongside indoor exhibitions and indoor café spaces.

Step 4 (21 June earliest) – most restrictions lifted.

Social distancing TBA by government.

A Storm at Harewood with Heritage Corner

90-minute walk taking in Harewood House and Grounds

Dates and ticket details to be announced, on sale from early April

Great British Food Festival 2021
Saturday 29 to Monday 31 May 2021

Tickets from £13.50 at greatbritishfoodfestival.com

The Luna Drive-In Cinema
Wednesday 3 to Monday 21 June 2021

Tickets from £37.50 per car at lunadriveincinema.com

MAMMA MIA!
Friday 13 to Monday 30 August 2021
Wednesday to Monday evenings 8pm
Saturday and Sunday matinees 2pm
additional matinee on Monday 30 August 2pm
Tickets from £39.50 at mamma-mim.com

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NOTES TO EDITORS

For further press information on Harewood, please contact Caitlin Wall
caitlin.w@harewood.org | 0113 218 1090

Harewood House Trust is an independent educational charity that constantly re-imagines what makes a historic house and its landscape relevant in the 21st century, by provoking different perspectives and conversations on its history, landscape and collections, as a place that can enrich all our lives, responsible for conserving it for the future. Throughout 2020 and into 2021, the charity has faced one of the most difficult periods in its history, losing approximately £1 million in visitor income. The tenacity of our teams and support of the Trustees, alongside significant fundraising efforts, support from the DCMS Culture Recovery Fund, and additional support from our Member community and others have meant the Trust can continue to not only be open, but provide great experiences and programming for everyone to enjoy.

The Trust and the Lascelles family have been at the forefront of acknowledging the estate's colonial past for over 25 years. This commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and to combating racism, remains stronger than ever and is central to the Trust's programming aims, as well as to its staff and volunteers, and working with the communities in and around Leeds.

Graphic artist **Anthony Burrill** combines a knack for simplicity that packs a punch with analogue craft skills and powerful, positive messages. Burrill frequently collaborates with other forward-thinking creatives across disciplines spanning music, architecture, curation, education and more; pushing his traditional discipline of choice, letterpress printing, into bold new territories. Words, gentle humour, no-nonsense communication and people are at the heart of Burrill's practice and his distinctive brand of upbeat messaging: its core DNA is one created through a longstanding passion for creativity without limitations, the power of simplicity and an innate curiosity about the world and people in it. Burrill was born in Littleborough, Lancashire. After studying Graphic Design at Leeds Polytechnic he completed an MA in Graphic Design at the Royal College of Art, London. He now lives and works on the Isle of Oxney, Kent.

Diasporian Stories Research Group (DSRG) was formed in 1997 at the suggestion of history teacher, Allison Edwards. Since then, members of this small multi-racial group have worked

hard, both together and individually, to research local Black and Asian History. They have disseminated their findings through exhibitions, talks, and above all through artistic performances – for example *Runaway Diamonds* at the then West Yorkshire Playhouse in 2007 and, in collaboration with the Geraldine Connor Foundation, *Sweet Chariot: Thomas Rutling and the Road to Freedom* at the Harrogate Festival in 2015.

Heritage Corner uses a unique blend of history and creativity to expose hidden narratives and engage people in understanding racism and ways to be anti-racist. It addresses challenging ideas in a non-confrontational manner. **Joe Williams** is a trained actor; after gaining his MA at the University of Leeds, School of Performance and Cultural Industries, he created The Leeds Black History Walk and established Heritage Corner. **Vanessa Mudd** is a former teacher who combines her passion for history and learning with creativity.

Leilah Vyner started Dragon Willow many years ago and now runs it from a workshop at Kirkby Wharfe, near Tadcaster. She grows her own willow as well as buying it in from local sources and really enjoys taking the willow on a journey from harvesting it to a finished product. She has been at the Chelsea Flower Show, exhibits at many places and last year won a prestigious QEST Scholarship. Leilah has developed her willow weaving business and makes willow sculptures, fencing, baskets and much more as well as teaching willow basketry and sculpture skills. At Harewood, she created the 16-foot Willow Satyr two Christmases ago, alongside other projects.