

**PRESS RELEASE**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

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**Tree Dressing Competition announced for Swinton Park's Alfresco Parkland Food Festival**

Swinton Park is inviting entries to its first Tree Dressing competition, to be held in the parkland on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September. This is to coincide with the Alfresco Parkland Food Festival which is being held on the same day, and the Dressed Trees will be those on the route of the culinary trail that takes visitors through the grounds to the alfresco kitchens and attractions.

“We wanted to think of an eye catching way to show the route, and then began to explore the idea of creating some kind of art feature that would be part of the attraction.” commented owner Felicity Cunliffe-Lister, “The theme of the competition is Harvest and Local Produce, in any shape or form - we are expecting some very original entries!”.

Artists are invited to register with the hotel if they would like to take part, and they will have access to the Parkland the day before the event (Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September) to set up their installations. Those taking part will be able to view the exhibition as part of the Alfresco event on the Sunday, with free entry for two. Visitors to the event will all be invited to vote for their favourite entry, and the prize winners will be announced at the end of the day.

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Notes for the Editor :

Swinton Park is a luxury castle hotel set in 200 acres of parkland in the Yorkshire Dales.

The concept of the Alfresco Parkland Food Festival is to make the connection between the countryside and food real. By serving the food in an alfresco style in a beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> century

landscape, visitors can appreciate the freshness and quality of the produce and the important role that the Yorkshire countryside plays in it.

Visitors will follow a culinary trail, enjoying tasting dishes served at alfresco kitchens en route, with ingredients such as venison, smoked trout and heather blossom sourced from Swinton Estate. There will be a choice of routes to follow between the Deerhouse, Walled Garden and lakes, with the Harvest Moon café in the woodland serving homemade soups, freshly roasted coffee and cream teas, with Morris Dancers and live music to entertain. Guided tours will be given in the woodland with local wild food expert Chris Bax, and in the walled garden with the garden designer Susan Cunliffe-Lister.

There will also be an artisan craft area, with demonstrations and plenty of hands on opportunities such as print making, willow hurdle making, corn dollies, Raku pottery and rustic chair making. The Deerhouse will be home to the Real Ale bar, with an extended area for demonstrations on Apple Juicing and Cider Making, Cheese and Butter Making and Wine Tasting.

At the end of the trail there are family activities such as face painting, pony rides, bouncy castle, falconry displays and an animal corner. There is a Gourmet Food Marquee with a wide selection of local food producers including cheese, breads, herbs, beer, fruit wine, oils, soup, sausages and bacon, and also a Cookery Demonstration Theatre and cookery shop.

11.00am – 4.00pm. Entry : Adults £10 (includes a two course tasting meal or afternoon tea)  
Children (4 – 12yrs) £5 (includes 1 course voucher) 3yrs and under FREE