

Launch of Mary Beale Restaurant

On April 2nd Beales Hotels opened the Mary Beale Restaurant at West Lodge Park. At a top flight press reception Managing Director Andrew Beale spoke of the unique collection of paintings by Mary Beale is on display and the great privilege to have them in the restaurant, now renamed in her honour.

At the height of her fame in 1677 Mary painted 83 portraits earning the then considerable sum of £429. Her paintings are now considered national treasures, some of which are on display in the National Portrait Gallery

and Tate Britain.

Andrew Beale said: "It is fitting that this collection should be on show here at West Lodge Park not only because of the family connection, but also because Mary Beale painted the portrait of Sir Henry Coventry in 1673 who was the then owner of this fine house."

Customers at the Mary Beale Restaurant will be able to read about the history of the portraits and Mary Beale from their menu, whilst enjoying fabulous food worthy of the two AA rosettes which the restaurant has been awarded.



Above:
Andrew Beale with a
self portrait of Mary
Beale

Left:
Press delegates at
opening ceremony
including, l to r,
Clare Bourke
Hertfordshire Life,
June Cory of My
Mustard,
Brian White,
Hertfordshire
Countryside and
Jacquie Manners
Manners PR



The history of West Lodge Park itself dates back to 1419, when it was originally built as a hunting lodge for Enfield Chase. The estate was purchased by the Beale family in 1945 and transformed into a luxury country house hotel, surrounded by 35 acres of grounds and an arboretum, famous in the horticultural world for its collection of trees.

The Beale family has been in business since 1769 and Andrew Beale is the eighth generation to run the company, which owns West Lodge Park Hotel in Hatley Wood and Beales Hotel in Hatfield.