

Let's imagine: Newbury coat lithograph

Each week the Museum is going to publish a 'Let's Imagine' activity sheet. This activity sheet will include a picture of an object in the Museum. It will tell you about the object and then it will be up to you to imagine a story, poem and/or picture inspired by this object. The sheet will include at least three questions or statements to help get you started and inspired.

This week's object is a **lithograph of the making of the Newbury coat**, a similar one can be found in the permanent exhibition. Read the information in blue below to find out more.



You have to describe what is happening in this picture to a friend. What do you say?

Draw your own version of the making of the Newbury coat.

Write a story or poem about being transported back to Newbury on the day the 'Newbury coat' is made (11th June 1811). Describe what you see and do.

This is a lithograph (picture) called [The] Making of the Newbury Coat, Greenham Mills. The artist has brought together various stages of the event, from sheep shearing to spinning the wool into yarn to make the coat. See what else you can spot?

What is the Newbury coat? Two men, John Coxeter (a cloth manufacturer and mill owner), and Sir John Throckmorton had a conversation about whether it was possible to make a coat in one day.

Sir John lay a wager (bet), of 1000 guineas (a lot of money at the time), that it was not possible and John Coxeter agreed to the wager. The date for the challenge was set as 11th June 1811. At 5am on this day, the sheep were shorn and the fleece prepared ready to be spun and woven. Mr White, the tailor, cut the cloth for the coat, then stitched it and added buttons; it was made in the style of a hunting coat.

The coat was completed in just 13 hours and 20 minutes, and was presented by John Coxeter to Sir John Throckmorton. John Coxeter had won the wager! To celebrate, the sheep who were sheared in the morning were roasted and given to the crowd, along with gallons of ale.

The original coat now resides at the Throckmorton estate in Warwickshire, but the museum has a coat on display that was produced when the challenge was rerun more recently.