

- Press Release -

New Year Resolutions with the DHC

Thursday 30th December: For immediate release

New Year is a time to reflect on the changes we want or need to make and for many it is a time for new resolutions. The Dean Heritage Centre (DHC) is here to help and has lots to offer those hoping to make their New Year Resolutions a reality. Whether you want to expand your social life or skills base, spend more time with the family or save money, the DHC is here to play a supporting role.

As a registered charity the Dean Heritage Centre owes much to the support of its fantastic volunteers and has a huge range of volunteering opportunities available. In addition to requiring front of house and collection care assistance, site maintenance or educational facilitators, the Centre needs enthusiastic bodies to help plan and run its exciting 2011 events calendar. From organising a tombola to sewing bunting, if you want to join in, the DHC would love to talk to you. For more details of how to get involved email: admin@deanheritagecentre.com.

The Centre is also looking for new trustees to take an active interest in Centre life. The Dean Heritage Museum Trust (DHMT) was created in 1981 as a community initiative to preserve and interpret the rich history and heritage of the Forest of Dean. Anyone passionate about protecting and preserving the Forest of Dean in this way should first become a member of the DHMT and then express their interest in becoming a Trustee. For more details contact the Centre Manager, Nathalie Hall, on 01594 822170 or email: nathalie@deanheritagecentre.com.

Spending more time with the family is number one on most people's resolution lists for 2011. Marketing Manager, Kathryn Ashcroft, explained: 'My partner and I are always intending to do more with the children but the reality is that we only managed a family day out every couple of months in 2010. I've recently signed up to a couple of websites and newsletters to get notifications about upcoming events and this has inspired me to create a newsletter for the DHC. I'm far more likely to get organised when I get notifications about family friendly events in my inbox.' You can sign up to the DHC newsletter at www.deanheritagecentre.com.

The calendar of events for 2011 has something happening most weekends at the DHC. On Sunday 16th January, the last day of the popular exhibition *The Night the River Burned: The Severn Railway Bridge Disaster*, author Chris Witts will give a talk about his book, *Severn Bridge Disaster* which has become a DHC bestseller. On Saturday 29th January National Story Telling week begins which will see activities throughout the following nine days. (see www.deanheritagecentre.com for more details).

Centre Manager, Nathalie Hall, said: 'We're really focusing on our events programme in 2011 and will be offering something for everyone. There are many fantastic national schemes including National Science and Engineering Week where the theme will be communication. Visitors can come along and learn how to speak Vorest or learn how animals communicate. Following the success of our hugely popular Fire and Wood weekend we'll also be adding a new Air and Water event closer to summer. With so many events planned for next year it's a perfect time to buy a membership of the DHC which allows free entry across the year".

The Dean Heritage Centre opens again after the last of its building work on Monday 10th January.

- End -

For more information or if you would like a photograph to illustrate the article please contact Kathryn Ashcroft on 01594 822170 or email: kathryn@deanheritagecentre.com

Visit: deanheritagecentre.com

Notes to editors

- The Dean Heritage Centre is based in five acres of scenic woodland and is home to the 'Museum of the Forest'. It tells the story of the Forest of Dean and its' people spanning 10,000 years of history, from the ice age to present day.
- It is open 363 days a year and offers a full diary of events, activities and exhibitions.
- The Museum is a centre of education and offers tailored educational workshops and activities to tie in with the school curriculum. For more information please call Sarah Fuller on 01594 822170.
- The Centre has been awarded the accreditation of Quality Assured Visitor Attraction.
- The Dean Heritage Museum Trust (DHMT) is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity.
- In March 2007 the Centre was awarded the accreditation of Quality Assured Visitor Attraction.