



- Press Release -

**Free Entry at Dean Heritage Centre's Forest Fair**

Friday 2nd September: For immediate release

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011, the Dean Heritage Centre will be offering visitors free entry as part of the national campaign, ~~the~~ Heritage Open Days

The centre's annual Forest Fair day will include an array of traditional carnival games, a coconut shy, duck races, a raffle and much more.

PR and Event Manager, Harri Le Claire said: ~~Our~~ Forest Fair is a fantastic opportunity to see all that we have to offer here at the centre and it's free! We're more than just a museum, we have activities for all the family and an ever developing event and activities programme.

After a long period of redevelopment and refurbishment works, the Dean Heritage Centre is open for business and has a packed exhibition and event programme to welcome families to its new and improved site.

After recovering from a fire which badly damaged parts of the building in December 2009, the centre has bounced back with a brand new entrance and shop, a new look gallery space and the newly restored Gage Library - now open to the public every Wednesday.

In addition, disabled access to the café decking area has been improved and the old Forge building has been converted into a fully furnished meeting space, available to hire for conferences, meetings or parties.

The centre is also hosting the ~~the~~ Changing Landscapes Exhibition from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September until Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The collaborative touring exhibition between the National Monuments Record and the National Coal Mining Museum for England offers case studies of coal mines from four English regions. It documents pits from their heyday to their demise, to show the visual impact that Britain's industrial heritage has left behind. The Dean Heritage Centre and the Forest of Dean Local History Society have enhanced the exhibition by adding images of the areas rich mining heritage including historic images of local collieries and miners.





Alex Smith, Collections Manager at DHC said:

It's the first national touring exhibition to visit the DHC and we couldn't have wished for a more appropriate theme. The exhibition tells a fascinating story of a lost industry and way of life through a range of beautiful photographs. The exhibition has also provided an opportunity for the DHC and the Forest of Dean Local History Society to exhibit historic images of the Forest's own mining heritage and explore how mining has transformed the Forest's landscape.

To complement the new changes a ram packed event programme has been developed which includes a Pirate Weekend, Fungi Weekend, AppleFest and exciting Halloween activities to name just a few.

The centre regularly has games, crafts, ferret walking, cryptic trails going on throughout the year as well as a brand new pirate adventure challenge, meaning there is lots for families to do and see at the forest tourist attraction.

- End -

For more information or if you would like a photograph to illustrate the article please contact Harri Le Claire on 01594 822170 or email: [Harri@deanheritagecentre.com](mailto:Harri@deanheritagecentre.com)

Visit: [deanheritagecentre.com](http://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.