



Press Release

Forest of Dean District Council
High Street, Coleford, GL16 8HG

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BACK IN A 'BLAZE' OF GLORY

The Dean Heritage Centre at Soudley in the ancient and inspiring Forest of Dean has been re-awarded the coveted Rosette as a Quality Assured Visitor Attraction by VAQAS only months after a terrible fire destroyed its roof and much more.

The Dean Heritage Centre is a community museum and visitor attraction, founded and supported by local people. It has 5 galleries and a library inside the museum, numerous displays and attractions outside, a café, visitor shop and holds a programme of special events throughout the year.

The assessor described the Centre as continuing to meet the criteria of the Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme at a very good standard, also quoting that the Centre "has recovered well from the fire to maintain its very good visitor experience. The friendly styles of welcome in the Centre and café add to this experience and very good standards of Presentation and Interpretation enhance its range of content which covers a wide area of local history life, as well as encouraging local involvement".

The Centre has excellent award-winning education facilities and areas including a very good sensory experience with new 'smell' boxes, dressing-up activities for children in the schoolroom and rubbing panels.

The Centre also now boasts two new female Gloucester Old Spot piglets to add to the resident livestock.

Cleanliness standards were found to be very good, with a tidy appearance throughout and an overall family-friendly atmosphere. Staff offered a good and pro-active welcome.

The café was found to offer a very good and appropriate menu range with "welcoming and friendly staff".

Steve Kendall, Forest of Dean District Council, Group manager for Sustainable Development said, "This is fantastic news and a great tribute to all the hard work put in by the staff, trustees and friends of the Centre following the fire. The Dean Heritage Centre is a terrific asset to the district and it is good to have this acknowledged with this accolade."

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For more information on the Dean Heritage Centre visit: www.deanheritagemuseum.com

For more information on the Forest of Dean visit: www.forestofdean.co.uk

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