

100 years of “Something for the girls”

21st July 2010: For immediate release

The Dean Heritage Centre (DHC) is welcoming visitors to see its latest exhibition, celebrating the centenary of the original Girl Guide Association.

The Forest of Dean South branch of Girlguiding UK will be showing a collection of memorabilia from 17th July until 3rd October 2010. On display will be uniforms, badges, and a collection of photographs of Guides from the Forest of Dean.

Alex Smith, the collections officer at the DHC hopes that women who attended their local group will come along and see if they can spot themselves among the images. She said, “We have a fantastic collection of photos and it’s a wonderful opportunity for local families to see what their mothers, aunts and grandmothers did as girls.”

Jeanette McGhee, Division Commissioner for Forest of Dean South of Girlguiding UK said, “From the beginning when girls with ambition and attitude arrived at the Crystal Palace Scout Rally in 1909 and asked for something for the girls, the organisation has sought to give young women a voice.

“We have always encouraged girls to test boundaries. When we began, one of our most popular badges was the Electrician Badge and in 1912 an Air Mechanic Badge was introduced. The organisation has evolved to remain relevant to girls and popular badges today include the Community Action Badge and Environmental Badges.”

The exhibition is one of many that Girlguiding UK is displaying across the country to celebrate the achievements of the women who have passed through the organisation.

The exhibition runs until 3rd October. Entrance is included in admission to the Dean Heritage Centre.

- 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@deanheritagemuseum.com

Visit: www.deanheritagemuseum.com

Notes to editors

- The Girl Guides Association was established in 1910 to provide scouting activities for girls. It was began operating under the name Girlguiding UK in 2002.
- Girlguiding UK is the United Kingdom's largest voluntary organisation for girls and young women, with around half a million members including about 100,000 trained volunteer adult Leaders and supporters
- Anyone interested in joining or volunteering with Girlguiding UK should visit the website www.girlguidinguk.org.uk
- 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.