

- Press Release -

Going Back To Your Roots at the Dean Heritage Centre

27th July 2010: For immediate release

Families looking for an entertaining yet informative day out this summer are being encouraged to visit the Dean Heritage Centre (DHC), based in Soudley, as an essential part of any visit to the Forest of Dean.

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The Centre, which is under new management, is promoting a varied programme of exciting and educational activities for all the family throughout August.

As part of this fun programme, on Sunday 8th August, visitors who wish to trace their family history are invited to discover their roots at the DHC's *Family History Day*.

If your ancestors came from any part of Gloucestershire, whether it's the Cotswolds, the Severn Vale, or the Forest of Dean then you can learn more about the methods used to trace your ancestry.

Steve Cooper, Chair of the Forest of Dean branch of the Gloucestershire Family History said: "Our team have a wealth of knowledge and a vast enthusiasm for family history and the Forest of Dean is one of the best areas for online parish records which helps our research immensely.

"We will be at the Dean Heritage Centre to advise visitors on tracing family histories from all over the country, not just the county, and providing useful tips on how to overcome hurdles in their investigations."

Centre Manager, Nathalie Hall, said: "This is the third year Steve and his team will be offering their expertise to our visitors and we are delighted to have them back. We often receive email enquiries from people living overseas who are desperate to trace their origins in the Forest of Dean, so to have them onsite showing visitors how to get the best from their own online investigations will be invaluable."

Also happening at the Dean Heritage Centre this August:

Fish, Fykes and Ferries! - a hands on family fun event on Sunday 22nd August. Find out about the River Severn's unique heritage. Enjoy interactive storytelling by actor John Basset and meet five different characters who once lived and worked on the Severn. Discover why they each think the river is important for different reasons. Learn about strange fish, shipwrecks and decoying ducks!

The bank holiday weekend (Saturday 28th – Monday 30th August) features a favourite in the DHC's calendar, the *Traditional Charcoal Burn*. Meet the charcoal burners, and discover an ancient Forest craft and its traditions.

Our *Have a go at...Day* on the Bank Holiday Monday allows visitors to observe, touch and have-a-go at a whole host of crafts, both traditional and modern.

For Dennis Potter fans, on Friday 27th August the New Century Theatre Company will be performing Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills*. The play about wartime childhood is set in the Forest of Dean and the DHC is the perfect backdrop for this hugely popular play. Please call the box office on 01594 822170 for tickets and further information.

For more information on any of the events listed call 01595 822170 or visit: deanheritagemuseum.com

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If you would like a photograph to illustrate the article please contact Kathryn Ashcroft on 01594 822170 or email: Kathryn@deanheritagemuseum.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.