

- Press Release -

New Blog provides an outlet for Forest Talent!

23rd September 2010: For immediate release

A new website called Made in the Forest will launch on Friday 1st October 2010 to showcase the literary talents of the Forest of Dean.

www.madeintheforest.com is a new initiative developed by the Dean Heritage Centre (DHC), and will bring together bloggers, poets and other writers, in order to share the stories of the Forest and its' people. The site aims to promote both upcoming writers and the Forest of Dean as an untapped area of creative talent.

The Forest of Dean has long been an inspiration for writers such as Dennis Potter, whose play *Blue Remembered Hills* was set in the area, and Winifred Foley, whose popular memoirs that began with *A Child in the Forest* (later retitled *Full Hearts and Empty Bellies*) made the Times bestsellers list top 10 and was serialised on the BBC Radio 4's *Women's Hour*.

The DHC's Marketing Manager and Made in the Forest editor, Kathryn Ashcroft said: 'There is an amazing amount of talent here with some really interesting blogs and I'm really excited about promoting that. I'm extremely keen to publicise the work of local artists and skilled crafts people and hope to recruit those interested in writing about them. The website reinforces the aims of the DHC to preserve and promote the FOD's history and heritage in a unique and interactive way.'

The Made in the Forest online project also supports the Made in the Forest Brand that Kathryn has introduced at the DHC's newly refurbished shop and reflects the great importance of tourism to the Forest of Dean and recognises that its' people are one of the greatest assets.. Patrick Molyneux, Cabinet Member for Tourism said, 'The Forest of Dean is a hotspot for creativity in all sorts of areas. Not all of it is well known and this is a good opportunity to bring together the lesser known. It's fantastic that the Dean Heritage Centre is behind this and seeking to raise the profile of talent in the Forest. We're excited to see what people produce.'

Submission criteria can be found on www.madeintheforest.com from 1st October 2010 or by emailing editor@madeintheforest.com.

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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: 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.
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- In March 2007 the Centre was awarded the accreditation of Quality Assured Visitor Attraction.