

Local museum of history and heritage focuses on the future

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A leading Forest of Dean attraction has reinforced its commitment to protecting and promoting local history by welcoming two new full time members of staff.

The Dean Heritage Centre (DHC), based in Soudley, has taken on a new Centre Manager and a new Marketing Manager whose aims are to increase visitor numbers, raise the profile of the museum and promote it as a unique tourist attraction within Gloucestershire

New Centre Manager, Nathalie Hall said: "The DHC is a key resource for Gloucestershire as both a tourist attraction and important centre of education.

"My role is to ensure the continued growth and development of the museum, through new funding and investment opportunities, together with an innovative programme of events and exhibitions that are both entertaining and informative.

"It is vital that we have a sustainable, profitable and vibrant tourism industry in the Forest of Dean that attracts visitors from within the County, further afield and puts the Forest of Dean on the map. I see the DHC as playing an important part in achieving that goal."

New Marketing Manager, Kathryn Ashcroft said: "The DHC has a vibrant diary of activities that reflect the craft, culture and history of the Forest from family days out to a performance of Dennis Potter's *The Blue Remembered Hills* that you can bring a picnic to on Friday 27th August. The DHC is at the heart of the Forest of Dean and my role is to present its story by promoting the events, exhibitions and people that make it so special."

Together, Nathalie and Kathryn are planning an extended diary of events for 2011, developing much loved activities such as the Traditional Charcoal Burn and introducing new ideas to reflect the diversity and evolution of the Forest of Dean.

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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: www.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.