



- Press Release -

WWII Weekend launches Forester's War Exhibition

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On the 16th and 17th April 2011, World War II will be remembered at the Dean Heritage Centre (DHC) as a weekend of unique family activities celebrates the start of a new exhibition.

The 'Forester's War' exhibition opens on Saturday 16th April and runs until 24th July 2011. The war time retrospective will commemorate the experiences of people from the Forest of Dean during the Second World War and feature new artefacts and interpretation throughout the galleries.

Mary Dutson, DHC trustee and head of the committee behind the exhibition, said: 'What's really exciting is that there will be a very different experience from visiting the Centre. Fresh displays will be in the cabinets featuring everything from authentic uniforms to military weapons. The Victorian schoolroom will become a wartime school room and a diorama of costumed characters will be on display in the Forester's Cottage.'

The WWII weekend which marks the opening of the exhibition will see the DHC transformed to a time of identity cards, air raids and rationing. Visitors will be asked to purchase a replica ID card (their admission ticket) which they will be required to get stamped at various check points throughout the Centre.

While onsite they will be provided with the skills for survival with workshops ranging from how to 'make do and mend' to a fun and interactive air raid demonstration. There will be original WWII vehicles on display and a tasty wartime menu on offer in the café.

Creating the exhibition has been a community effort with the vast majority of objects on display being loaned by the people of the Forest of Dean. Nathalie Hall, Centre Manager of the DHC said, 'The exhibition is called The Forester's War and is truly the Forester's exhibition. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from the local community and are honoured to be able to share the collective memory of such an important part of local history.'

Dean Heritage Centre

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The WWII weekend runs across the 16th and 17th of April and the exhibition will run until 24th July. Admission to the WWII weekend and the Forester's War exhibition are included in museum admission.

If you have any WWII memorabilia you would like to display as part of the exhibition please contact Kathryn@deanheritagecentre.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.
- In March 2007 the Centre was awarded the accreditation of Quality Assured Visitor Attraction.