

## Starting the Spring Season at the DHC

31st January: For immediate release

During National Storytelling Week, the Dean Heritage Centre is running *Stories of Today and Yesterday* to increase public awareness on the art, practice and value of oral storytelling.

On Saturday and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> January, *Just So* stories were told by scary school ma'am, Mrs Wright in the Victorian School Room. There was a little giggling at the front of the classroom from a Miss Tamsin Dennan, resulting in a strict disciplining with the back straightener. (*see attached photo*) You don't just dress up in period costume at the DHC, you follow the rules!

During the afternoon, children pulled items from the story sack and provided the actions and sound effects relating to that object. Animal noises and some very noisy ghost impressions from William and Daniel Halling, were heard throughout the Centre as a very different type of storytelling took place.

National Story Telling Week runs until Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February and the interactive story sessions will be repeated on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Between 10am and 12pm, scary Mrs Wright will be in the Victorian School Room with a basket of Victorian costume and her back straightener for any naughty visitors and warns that parents are not exempt from punishment! From 12pm to 3pm, the story sack session will be run in the education room. All activities are included in museum admission.

February will be a busy month at the Centre, as Chris Witts returns to give another talk on his book, *Severn Bridge Disaster*. His previous talk was so popular that some visitors missed out as it was standing room only and Centre staff are stressing the importance of reserving your free ticket for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Call 01594 822170 or emailing [kathryn@deanheritagecentre.com](mailto:kathryn@deanheritagecentre.com). The talk will take place at 2pm and is included in museum admission.

Kathryn Ashcroft, Shop Manager also has good news regarding the book. She said, "Chris' book was very popular and we were continually restocking. I took the last of Chris' stock and was sad to hear that his publisher wasn't going to be doing another run. Chris has been working hard to find a new publisher and I'm delighted to announce that we have just received a new delivery." The book costs £4.95.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February, the DHC will be celebrating the first of their festivals planned for 2011. The Spring Festival will be on the theme of plants and woodland. There will be a guided talk where visitors can learn how to spot the first signs of Spring and three performances of *The Man Who Named Plants – The Life of Carl Linnaeus*. Indoor and outdoor trails will introduce the Centre's new Woodland Explorer pack aimed at children aged between 5 and 12 years.

Throughout February and March, the exhibition in Gallery 41 will be *Cameras in the Dean*. Arthur Winch, one of the photographers for the exhibition will be showing additional material on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. These talks are included in museum admission.

- 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@deanheritagecentre.com](mailto:kathryn@deanheritagecentre.com)

Visit: [deanheritagecentre.com](http://deanheritagecentre.com)

### **Notes to editors**

- The Dean Heritage Centre is dedicated to protecting, preserving and promoting the unique history and heritage of the Forest of Dean.
- The 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 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