



20<sup>th</sup> March 2009

## PRESS RELEASE

### **A Royal Walk in the Park**

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester visited the Black Country Living Museum on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 to inspect the recently completed Workers' Institute and declare the adjacent Folkes Park open.

The rebuilding of the Institute from Cradley Heath was part funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. HLF Regional Manager Anne Jenkins said: "The Heritage Lottery Fund has a long and successful history with BCLM with over £5 million being awarded to projects since 1996. We have supported some key projects at the museum which have real significance for the history of the Black Country and which have improved visitors' enjoyment and understanding of their heritage. I am pleased that The Duke of Gloucester was able to view the Workers' Institute which was supported by a grant of £1.5 million from HLF."

Folkes Park is a typical 1930's public park and was constructed on the final piece of derelict land within the Museum's 26-acre site with a £188,293 award from Cory Environmental Trust and a £50,000 gift from Folkes Holdings, which can trace its history back for more than 300 years in the Black Country.

His Royal Highness toured some of the Museum's new attractions including the Black Country Motor Company Ltd building, Broome's Garage, Hobbs Fish and Chip Shop and Morrall's Gentlemen's Outfitters. These latest attractions form part of the Museum's £10 million development plan which will see the Museum double in size.

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**Photo Opportunities:** Image attached.

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