

HELP MUSEUM HIGHLIGHT HUMPHREY'S HISTORY

The Black Country Living Museum is looking for help with the next phase of its 'Old Birmingham Road' project, the construction of a block of four shops which formerly stood in Oldbury.

Humphrey Brothers, builders and decorators occupied number 12 Birmingham Road and can be traced back to 1921. The business grew until by the late 1940s the firm occupied three of the four shops – numbers 12, 14 and 16. As recently as 1960 the firm was still in business at number 12.

The museum intends to return number 12 to its 1930s state when Humphrey Brothers were advertising famous brand names such as 'Darkeline' floor varnish and 'Walpamur' wall paper as well as tile fireplaces which took their name from the celebrated local motor manufacturer, Sunbeam.

In order to recreate the shop as authentically as possible the museum is anxious to make contact with anyone connected with the firm...members of the Humphrey family, employees, customers – anyone, in fact who has recollections of the shop – neighbours and even people who simply walked past the shop and can remember it. Every small scrap of information will help build up a picture of this business which was a part of the Birmingham Road in Oldbury for over five decades

If any one who has memories of Humphrey Brothers can they please contact Barbara Harris at the Black Country Living Museum on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday on 0121 521 5692 or email her on barbarah@bclm.co.uk

David Eveleigh

Museum Curator

Black Country Living Museum