



14th July 2009

PRESS RELEASE

Air Your Dirty Laundry in Public and Win a VIP Day!

The Black Country Living Museum is getting in a bit of a lather over its latest new attraction - the Brew House at the Museum's Tilted Cottage. The Museum is recreating 'Washday Monday' and is appealing to the public to air its dirty laundry in the hope a few 'soap stars' come forward with their wash day memories. The story that scrubs up the best will win a VIP trip to the award-winning attraction and two lucky runners up will each receive a family ticket which admits 2 adults and up to three children.

In order to recreate an authentic 'wash day' researchers are particularly keen to hear from anyone who remembers how the washing was done before the advent of the automatic washing machine. The new living history demonstrations which begin this summer, will use a dolly tub, wash board, mangle and irons to get their bloomers whiter than white!

'Wash Day Monday' was physically hard work and typically occupied the whole day. Water was heated by a small coal fire or by gas and the wash boiled in the copper. Clothes were scrubbed by hand using a washboard and pounded in the dolly tub. The automatic washing machine revolutionised 'women's work' and researchers are keen to hear recollections from anyone who remembers getting their first 'mod con' or using famous-name brands such as Rickett's

Blue, Hudson's Soap or Kenrick's cast-iron laundry irons.

Wash day blues will evaporate for one lucky winner who will receive a VIP Trip to the Black Country Living Museum. The VIP Day includes free admission to the Museum for up to four adults, a ride on a vintage vehicle, a trip down the underground coalmine and lunch in our famous Fried Fish Shop or in the Canalside Cafe. The winner and their guests will also enjoy a lesson in the traditional schoolroom, a complimentary drink in the Bottle & Glass Inn and, as a memento of their special day, take home a photograph of their party in period costume.

If anyone has any wash day memories they would like to share with researchers please contact Barbara Harris at the Black Country Living Museum on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on 0121 521 5690 or email her on barbarah@bclm.co.uk. Letters can be sent to David Eveleigh, Museum Curator, The Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 4SQ or alternatively contact him on davide@bclm.co.uk. Competition entries should reach the Museum no later than 31st August 2009.

-Ends-

Photo Opportunities

Image attached

Caption: Betty Southall, Costumed Guide and Demonstrator gets her whites whiter than white.

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