



22nd September 2009

PRESS RELEASE

All Aboard for 100th Birthday Celebration! **Saturday 26th September, 2009**

A double-decker tram will be celebrating its 100th birthday on Saturday 26th September at the Black Country Living Museum after a 25 year restoration project returned the open-topped tram, which was once used as a coffin store, back to its former glory.

Tram 49, which used to run along the along Penn Fields route and was the last open-topper purchased by the Wolverhampton Corporation in 1909, was discovered, along with Tram 47, at a firm of undertakers in Ironbridge, Shropshire. Tram 49 was being used as a coffin store and Tram 47 was being used as a chapel of rest.

In June 1976 the Black Country Living Museum put a rescue plan into action which culminated in a 25 year restoration project which saw Tram 49 back in service at the Dudley Museum in September 2004.

Keith Bodley, Member of the Black Country Museum Transport Group said: "Trams have always played a large part in the history of the Black Country. Tram 49 was a labour of love and so this is an especially poignant day for the members of the Black Country Museum Transport Group and all those whose craftsmanship and skills helped to restore such a fine example of an open-topped double-decker tram car."

THE BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM TRUST LTD

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Visitors can hop aboard for a trip down memory lane as Tram 49 resumes service on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September, 2009.

-Ends-

Photo Opportunities

Images attached.

Journalists and photographers are invited to attend the Museum on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September.

For further information please contact:

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