



Tuesday 9th February, 2010

Press Release Museum Unveils New Exhibition

The Black Country Living Museum has teamed up with Smethwick Heritage Trust to present a new exhibition entitled 'Smethwick', as part of the Museum's permanent display 'Heart of the Black Country – The Black Country and You'.

The exhibition traces the history of Smethwick from its development as a modest hamlet at the time of the Domesday Book, to its growth as an industrial boomtown during the first half of the twentieth century, through to its gradual decline in 1966 when local industries went into decline and Smethwick lost its County Borough Status.

Mary Lee from Smethwick Heritage Trust said: "Artifacts give an insight into Smethwick's diverse past and famous industries from the town's heyday narrate the story of the part Smethwick played during the Industrial Revolution."

Ruskin Pottery, Glass by Chance Brothers, Tangye Brothers who invented the Hydraulic Jack, Averys who made weighing machines and GKN are all represented. Evoking all the atmosphere of the area's rich industrial heritage, the display captures the real-life memories of the people and industries of the town.

'The Black Country and You' plays host to a diverse and changing programme of exhibitions from community, local history and special interest groups. The displays ensure the Museum reflects the wider community of the Black Country and communicates their individual stories to Museum visitors. For more information email info@bclm.co.uk.

Note to Editors:

About the Museum

The Black Country Living Museum is one of the UK's leading open air museums. Attracting over 300,000 visitors each year to an astonishing 26 acre site just two miles from the town centre of Dudley, it captures and admires the achievements and culture of the region's past and the extraordinary impact this had on the wider world. With its thriving village spanning 150 years of history from c1770 to the 1920s, canal, tram way, school, public park and fairground, alongside the energy of an industrial landscape of mining, steam power, heavy metalwork and lime kilns, the Museum offers a visitor experience that few others can match. We also have one of the best fish and chips shops for miles around!

Photographic Information: Image attached

Image Caption: Jo Moody, Assistant Curator – Collections and Mary Lee from Smethwick Heritage Trust.

For further information:

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