



27 March 2010

PRESS RELEASE

Rededication of Springfield War Memorial

A Wolverhampton war memorial honouring soldiers who lost their lives in both world wars will be rededicated at a service held at the Black Country Living Museum on Saturday 27th March, 2010. The Museum is delighted to welcome Colonel Tony George MBE TD DL Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands, The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Surjan Singh Duhra and Mayoress Mrs Ranbir Duhra and The Worshipful The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Pat Martin and Consort Mr William Martin.

The 16ft statue, nicknamed 'Tommy', was relocated for the fourth time in October 2009 - leaving Territorial Army barracks in Fallings Park, Wolverhampton for its new home at the Dudley Museum. It was officially unveiled at a remembrance service at the Museum on the 9th November, continuing a tradition begun by Springfield Brewery Pensioners Association in 1923.

The eight ton war memorial was originally erected in 1923 at William Butler's Springfield Brewery to commemorate the sacrifice made by employees who had fallen during the two World Wars. The bronze memorial consists of a marching soldier mounted on a granite plinth and is positioned at one of the highest points at the Museum with 'Tommy' facing towards the Museum's village.

David Eveleigh, Curator of the Black Country Living Museum said: "It is important to be able to pay tribute to Black Country soldiers who lost their lives on the front line. The Museum would like to thank the 4th Battalion of the Mercian Regiment, the West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets

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Association, The Staffordshire Army Cadet Force and Cox's crane hire from Oldbury who all worked tirelessly to make the move and today's event possible. Moving the memorial to the Museum means it can be appreciated by a much wider audience and that the sacrifice made by these men will not be forgotten."

Civic dignitaries, business people, members of the armed forces and Museum staff all attended the event which was hosted by the Black Country Living Museum. Lieutenant Colonel Martyn Forgrave, QGM, Major Lawrence Crabb and Warrant Officer 1 (RSM) Michael Whillock from the 4th Battalion of the Mercian Regiment were in attendance. An introduction to the service was given by Major Ray Baddams, Salvation Army Minister and Colonel Tony George MBE TD DL Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands provided a reading. The Mercian Band provided musical accompaniment during the service.

-Ends-

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!

For further information:

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