



20th July 2010

PRESS RELEASE

**Festival Showcases Rare Gems**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2010**

One of the largest gatherings of AJS cars will make their motoring debut at the Black Country Living Museum's Festival of Black Country Vehicles on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. The cars, believed to be amongst just 33 still in existence in the world, will line up next to more than 150 historical Black Country vehicles spanning over one hundred years. These include Austin, Bean, Clyno, Jensen, Lomax, Quantum, Rickman, Star, Sunbeam, Swallow, Turner, Westfield and a rare Crescent Cyclecar.

88 year old Jim Stevens and his wife Jean will be motoring back in time when they are reunited with a 1930 AJS Saloon, once owned by the Stevens family and restored by the Dudley Museum.

A 1914 Crescent Cyclecar will be making its second appearance at the motoring festival. First built in Pleck Road, Walsall with the first model rolling off the production line in 1911, the Crescent had some success in time trials and in December 1912 B.N. Bailey won a gold medal in the very first cyclecar trial, along a 100 mile route from Birmingham to Stratford-upon-Avon, and back. The open 2-seater sold for £127 but very few were built and production ended in 1915 after the onset of the First World War.

The Museum's festival will celebrate cars, commercials and motorcycles built in the region or with engines from Henry Meadows of Wolverhampton, some of which will take part in a cavalcade around the 26-acre site. Black Country made classic cars will travel from as far afield as Bristol and Henley upon Thames to attend what has become one of the regions most popular rallies.

-Ends-

**Image attached**

Caption: Costumed Guides Betty Southall and Alan Mason in a 1901 Sunbeam Mabley.

**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 contact:**

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