



Events List 2010

The Black Country Living Museum is an award-winning open air attraction which unites the past and the present in an unforgettable 'living' experience. The Museum has a host of fascinating events and activities lined up for 2010 designed to ensure visitors enjoy an unbeatable day out. All daytime activities are included in the admission charge unless otherwise stated. There are special admission charges for evening events.

- On the first Saturday of every month between March and November historic vehicles from the Marston collection will take a spin of the Museum's circuit. Motoring marvels from the early 1900s up to the 1930s take centre stage and these rare gems are sure to be the torque of the town! The Marston group are often on site carrying out vital restoration work. Dates include: April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4 and October 2, November 6.
- It's a Gas! On the first Saturday of every month between March and December volunteers bring the gas engines to life in the Cinema Power House and the Trap Shop. Visitors can learn how they work and hear the belt driven machinery hum into life. Dates include: April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4 and October 2, November 6 and December 4.
- Grab a ticket to ride each Sunday at the Black Country Living Museum where the Transport Group will be going off their trolley over the electric powered buses. Visitors can hop aboard the 'Whispering Giants' for an environmentally-friendly trip down memory lane.
- Every 3rd weekend the Newcomen Engine billows to life from March to November inclusive. The only full sized working replica of the world's first steam engine can be seen in action. Dates include: Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 March, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 April, Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 May and Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 June, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 July, Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 August, Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 September, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 October, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 November. Due to the unpredictable nature of the Newcomen please check running details with the Museum prior to travelling to avoid disappointment.
- Get all steamed up when steam power takes over the Museum and the colliery steam winder and fan engine turn the pressure on! Dates include: April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, August 28, September 11, October 9, October 23, November 13, November 27.

Saturday 16 January - Sunday 17 January

Great War Society

The Great War Society will be setting up camp in the Museum's traditional village this weekend, offering a fascinating insight into 1914 Britain. Soldiers will stage street clearing exercises and a World War 1 recruitment drive. Visitors can take part in drill exercises and may well find themselves enlisting!

Friday 12 February

Black Country Comedy Night

Renowned Black Country Theatre Company – Fizzog will be bringing the house down with their special brand of humour in the tradition of the popular 'Black Country Nights'. The evening will also include an exclusive preview screening of the group's gritty Black Country television drama.

Saturday 13 February - Sunday 21 February

Half Term Activities

Board games in the Boardroom

Throughout half term visitors will be able to try their hand at traditional board games in the Boardroom of the Workers' Institute. There will be a chance to play a new board game for the first time, designed around the Chainmakers' Strike of 1910. Love is in the air and Valentine's Day crafts take place in the Museum's old-fashioned school-room. The young and the young at heart can play, as Black Country children once did, traditional games in the Museum's period village. Visitors can roll hoops along the cobbled street, play hopscotch on the pavement or test their skill with whip and top and skittles. A variety of parlour games are played in Station Road cottages.

Saturday March 13

Great War Society

The Great War Society will be setting up camp in the Museum's traditional village this weekend, offering a fascinating insight into 1914 Britain. Soldiers will stage street clearing exercises and a World War 1 recruitment drive. Visitors can take part in drill exercises and may well find themselves enlisting!

Sunday 14 March

Mother's Day

Mum's of all ages come in free when accompanied by a paying child. Celebrate Mother's Day at the Black Country Living Museum where mums can enjoy a day to remember. Treat mum to a special mother's day lunch in the Canalside Café and buy her a beautiful bunch of flowers from our traditional flower seller.

Friday 2 April – Sunday 18 April

Easter Holiday Activities

A cracking programme of Easter fun is laid on at the Black Country Living Museum where an "eggciting" Easter egg hunt gets underway. There's something for everyone with an Easter bonnet parade, children's Easter crafts, a prize quiz, egg painting and an egg rolling competition.

Sunday 4 April
Easter Sunday

Visitors are invited to enjoy an Easter Sunday service in the Museum's historic Darby Hand Chapel and become part of living history. The service begins at 2.30pm. **

Saturday 24 April and Sunday 25 April
Spring Living History Weekend

The Friends of the Museum make a clean sweep of things with a spring clean up weekend at The Black Country Living Museum. The Friends forgo 21st Century luxuries such as central heating, hot and cold running water and touch-of-a-button living to exist as people did in the 1920s. Dressed in period costume the Friends cook, clean, eat, and play as people did in the past and give some of the houses and cottages on site a spring clean!

Saturday 1 May - Monday 3 May
Tug Boat Event

Bigger and better than before the Museum's tug boat event is the biggest in the country. Tug boats from near and far afield will make a rare sight as they manoeuvre their way along the canal arm. The Museum's very own canal boat couple will be on hand to give visitors guided tours and traditional canal crafts and street games will also be available.

Monday 3 May
May Day

The May Day celebrations get off to a flying start as Maypole dancing weaves its magic in Folkes' Park. Professional dancers demonstrate the age-old tradition and visitors are encouraged to join in and have a go. English country dance lessons take place in the school with the professionals passing on top footwork tips and traditional music setting the beat! Children can enjoy some old-fashioned fun as Punch and Judy entertain the crowds.

Sunday 9 May
Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

Visitors are invited to enjoy 'A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon' service in the Museum's historic Darby Hand Chapel and become part of living history. The Methodist Chapel was built as Providence Church in 1837 at Darby Hand in Netherton, Dudley. The PSA is a special service originated by John Blackham of West Bromwich which became an international organisation. The Friends of the Museum recreate this important aspect of Black Country life when they re-enact the 'Pleasant Sunday Afternoon'. (Limited seat availability) The service begins at 2.30pm. **

Sunday 9 May

Veteran Bicycle Day

Saddle up for Veteran Bicycle Day when vintage bicycles pedal back the years at the Black Country Living Museum. Gems from the golden age of cycling may include the velocipedes (also known as the boneshaker because of its wooden cartwheels, iron tyres and boneshaking ride!), a penny farthing, a Hercules, a hudson, cross frames, loop frames and Victorian tricycles.

Saturday 15 May

A Night at the Museum

As part of the European "Nuit des Musees" the Black Country Living Museum will be hosting one of the biggest celebrations in Europe. Visitors can enjoy a traditional evening's entertainment for half the usual admission price when the museum throws open its doors after hours. The Museum's village will be full of atmosphere and visitors can chat to the many costume characters they meet there. Tuck into tasty fish and chips – cooked 1930s style and enjoy a pint of real ale in the bottle and Glass Inn. All tickets half price. Pre-book only.

Sunday 16 May

Austin 10 Car Rally

Motoring enthusiasts are in for a treat as pre-2nd world war Austin 10 motor cars tour the Museum's 26-acre site.

Saturday 29 May – Sunday 6 June

Half Term Activities

Children of all ages can hop, skip and jump back in time to the Museum's period village where the young and the young at heart can roll hoops along the cobbled street, play hopscotch on the pavement and test their skill with whip and top and skittles. A variety of parlour games are played in Station Road cottages and craft-making projects take place in the old-fashioned school-room.

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 June

Steam Weekend

The Museum celebrates steam power in its widest sense with a range of different steam engines around the site. Large traction engines to miniature Mammoth models, will be in action around the Museum. The colliery steam winder and fan engine will be in operation and it's full steam ahead when the only full sized working replica of the world's first Newcomen steam engine billows into life. Enthusiasts will enjoy watching the model steam engines and traction engines. This rare event is a must for enthusiasts and the public alike.

Sunday 20 June

Father's Day

Dad's of all ages come in free when accompanied by a paying child. Celebrate Father's Day with a special lesson at 'Soccer School', peruse the fashion of the

day – 1930s style in Morralls' Gentlemen's Outfitters or travel back in time on a vintage tram or trolleybus and enjoy a day to remember.

Sunday 11 July

Sunday School Anniversary – 11.00 am and 2.30pm

Friends of the Museum throw open the doors to the 1837 Darby Hand Chapel and invite visitors to join them as they re-enact a traditional Sunday School Anniversary Service. Children in traditional costume head a procession along the village street to the Chapel where they will lead the congregation in hymns. Services take place at 11am and 2.30pm; the afternoon service will, in keeping with tradition, be presided over by a woman. (Limited seat availability) **

Saturday 24 July – Sunday 5 September

School Holiday Activities

Back by popular demand – Fizzog Theatre Company will be entertaining visitors during the summer holiday with their unique brand of Black Country humour and street theatre. Visitors can hop, skip and jump back in time and roll hoops along the cobbled street, play hopscotch on the pavement and test their skill with whip and top and skittles. A variety of parlour games are played in Station Road cottages and craft-making projects, including writing with old fashioned pen and ink and paper crafts take place in the old-fashioned school-room.

Sunday 25 July

Festival of Black Country Vehicles

This annual gathering of cars, motorcycles and commercial vehicles built in the Black Country sees over one hundred vehicles parade around the Museum site. Well-known marques may include AJS, Bean, Star, Sunbeam and Jensen. The Black Country was a major centre for vehicle manufacturing with cycles, motorcycles, cars, lorries and buses all built in the region.

Sunday 1 August

Friends Chapel Service

Visitors are invited to enjoy a service in the Museum's historic Darby Hand Chapel and become part of living history. (Limited Seat Availability) **

Monday 30 August

Bank Holiday Activities

Children of all ages can hop, skip and jump back in time to the Museum's period village where the young and the young at heart can roll hoops along the cobbled street, play hopscotch on the pavement and test their skill with whip and top and skittles. A variety of parlour games are played in Station Road cottages and craft-making projects take place in the old-fashioned school-room.

Saturday 18 September and Sunday 19 September

Living History Weekend

The Friends forgo 21st Century luxuries such as central heating, hot and cold running water and touch-of-a-button living to exist as people did in the 1920s.

Dressed in period costume the Friends cook, clean, eat, and play as people did in the past.

Saturday 18 September

Centenary Anniversary - Women Chainmakers' Festival

The Museum's major labour history event recalls the fight of the Cradley Heath Women Chainmakers, who in 1910 went on strike for ten weeks and were successful in winning the first ever minimum wage. The TUC organised event, hosted by the Black Country Living Museum, will celebrate the importance of Trade Union History and women at work. The day will feature a parade, entertainment, music and theatre from local performers along with stirring speeches and a famous union supporting group will ensure the legacy of the Cradley Heath Women Chainmakers lives on.

Sunday 3 October

Harvest Festival

Join the Friends of the Museum as they bring the 1837 Darby Hand Chapel to life when they re-enact a traditional Harvest Festival Service. The historic chapel is decorated with garden produce and traditional harvest festival offerings. The Friends of the Museum recreate this important aspect of Black Country life when they re-enact a traditional Harvest Festival Service. (Limited seat availability). Service starts at 2.30pm. **

Saturday 23 October – Sunday 24 October

Living History Weekend

The Friends forgo 21st Century luxuries such as central heating, hot and cold running water and touch-of-a-button living to exist as people did in the 1920s. Dressed in period costume the Friends cook, clean, eat, and play as people did in the past.

Saturday 23 October – Sunday 31 October

Half Term Halloween Activities

Visitors can join in the spirit of Halloween and enjoy hair-raising thrills and spine-tingling chills when they listen to ghostly tales of yesteryear.

Saturday 30 October – Sunday 31 October

Halloween at the Museum PRE-BOOK ONLY ON 0121 520 8054

Last year's smash hit event was so popular we've added an extra date. Psychics and mystics gaze into the future, mysterious guides tell tales of bumps in the night and traditional Halloween activities take over the Museum's eerie gas-lit village. Little devils and mini ghosts and ghouls can trick or treat in SAFETY along the Museum's cobbled streets, collecting sweets as they go. A small additional charge will be made for a reading with a psychic.

Friday 5 November

Traditional Bonfire Night PRE-BOOK ONLY ON 0121-520-8054

The Museum's biggest evening event of the year is its traditional Bonfire Night with the ADDED SAFETY OF NO FIREWORKS. A family-orientated Bonfire Night celebrates November 5th with roaring bonfires, traditional entertainment, hot roast chestnuts and a fairground in full swing. The Museum's atmospheric canal-side village will be lit up with candle and gas-light and visitors can enjoy chatting to characters from yesteryear.

Thursday 11 November
Remembrance Service
Springfield Brewery War Memorial

The Springfield Brewery war memorial honouring soldiers who lost their lives in both world wars will be at the centre of a Remembrance Service to be held at 11.00am at the Black Country Living Museum.

Saturday 27, Sunday 28 Nov, 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 December
Santa Hunt PRE-BOOK ONLY ON 0121-520-8054

The highly popular Santa Hunts are a big hit with children and parents alike. As children embark upon a fun-filled search for Santa costumed guides and magical Christmas clues point the way to Santa's workshop culminating in a surprise gift.

Friday 17, Saturday 18, Monday 20, Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 December
Traditional Christmas Evenings PRE-BOOK ONLY ON 0121-520-8054

The Museum takes on a festive flavour as cottages are illuminated by gas and candlelight, giving off a distinctly magical glow. Carol singing, street entertainers, market stalls, musical entertainment and brass bands infuse the evening with the spirit of Christmas.

Sunday 19 December
Carols by Candlelight **

Visitors are invited to join the Friends of the Museum as they bring the 1837 Darby Hand Chapel to life for a traditional candlelit carol service, conjuring up all the atmosphere of Christmas' past. Starting at 2.30pm the service takes place in the Museum's historic Darby Hand Chapel and includes 5 lessons and 10 carols within the service. (Limited seat availability)

**Tickets for all chapel events are available in advance by contacting Alan Carter on 01902 670402 (Limited availability).

For further information please contact the Museum on 0121-557-9643 or visit our website at www.bclm.co.uk.
Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 4SQ

Please note that although details are correct at the time of going to print we would encourage you to check details before travelling to avoid disappointment. The Museum reserves the right to vary the programme of activities and special events.

24/02/2010 FJC