

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

Thank you for enquiring about donating an object to the Black Country Living Museum. We have been collecting for 40 years, as you can imagine we already have lots of objects and have to be careful with how we use our storage space. It's not easy for us to get rid of unwanted objects and we're not allowed to sell objects on.

Some objects like razors and gasmasks are dangerous for us to store so we no longer accept them.

We do consider all objects on an individual basis but in general objects for the collection have to

- Have a strong connection to the Black Country
- Fill a gap in our existing collection
- Be useful to us for demonstration or display

Please see our list of objects that we would like to collect. If you have something you think may be of interest please contact the Collections Team with details of your objects and photographs to collections@bcm.com or call 0121 557 9643 option 3

For the General Collection

Archives

- Material from local companies for example Rubery Owen and Avery
- Local history books, especially historic titles; please note we already have a large collection and would not take duplicates.
- Material relating to post World War Two migration into the Black Country
- Material relating to the experience of migrant workers in the Black Country
- Books that cover the following subjects
 - industrial technology,
 - transport history
 - Museology

Domestic and Cultural Life

- Pre 1960s toys with a strong Black Country connection
- Trade tokens from Black Country companies.
- Working Class Clothing
- Items manufactured by Cannon particularly 40s -60 gas cooker, gas refrigerators and domestic products like a rotisserie.
- Mangles and washing tubs for use in laundry demonstrations

Items relating to

- Food processing & brewing, especially advertising and packaging
- Death and mourning

- Women's history
- Migration into the Black Country, including stories and memories
- Ethnic Communities
- Disability
- Black Country Homefront in World War 2
- Leisure pursuits and hobbies, particularly bowling greens
- Friendly societies and trade unions

Industry

- Exterior Ironwork
- Lock making manufacturing in Willenhall and the surrounding area.
- Items manufactured by underrepresented companies like Kingfisher, West Bromwich, Rubery Owen and Brockhouse Forgings.
- Items manufactured during the Second World War by Black Country firms such as Sankey's, Kendrick's, Rubery Owen
- Items relating to the following industries:
 - Plastics industry, particularly examples of those made by British Industrial Plastics.
 - Gun trade (Darlaston).
 - Enamelling equipment.
 - Glass industry.
 - Printing and stationery industries (e.g. Manders packaging, Kenrick & Jefferson).
 - Cast and wrought iron hollowware (e.g. Holcroft, Sankey).
 - Art metal working (e.g. James Smellie, Thomas Smart).
 - Locally made frost cogs and specialist nails
 - Edge Tools
 - Brickmaking
 - The Birmingham Canal Network and Black Country Canals

Large Items

- Industrial machinery and vehicles are considered on an individual basis due to size and storage implications.

For forging ahead

Co-op – Halesowen & Hasbury Branch

- Co-operative material, reflecting local societies
- 1950s packaging.

Burgin's Newsagents

- Scales
- Door bell
- Mirrors
- Plain Wooden Stool

- Large round dining table
- Kitchenette
- Small basin sink

Domestic Interiors 1940s & 1950s to represent

- Cooking & Eating – a refrigerator, gas cooker, cutlery, utensils, pots & pans
- Laundry – washing machine
- Bathing - baths, sinks
- Cleaning – vacuum cleaner
- Utilities – gas meter
- Heating, gas and electric fires
- Lighting, light shades, light fittings
- Leisure activities knitting patterns, knitting needles
- Garden furniture
- Tools – that would be used in a domestic setting
- Toys & Games
- Vono Larder kitchenette unit
- 1950s tiled fireplace
- 1950s portable-sized TV
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Elephant & Castle Pub

- Furniture – cast iron bases & wooden/copper tops
- Ashtrays
- Advertisements

General

- 1950s Ice Cream Van
- Post WW2 road signs
- Post Box George V
- 1950s Telephone box with Black Country Provenance
- Material and objects relating to leisure pursuits and hobbies particularly bowling greens
- 1950s & 1960s office equipment
- Stephen's Ink thermometer

Gas Show Room

- 1950s Domestic gas appliances i.e. cookers, refrigerators,
- Mr Therm material
- PBX Exchange

Harrison & Pearson Brickworks

- Material and objects relating to Black Country Brick works
- Brickmaking machinery

J H Lavender, Aluminium Foundry

- Items relating to Aluminium Foundry

Industrial Area

- Material and objects relating to Edge Tool manufacture

Laurie Thomas Hairdressers, Men & Women

- Hair Dressing Equipment

Marsh & Baxter – pork butchers 1953

- Items relating to pork butchers and Marsh & Baxter
- Packaging
- Butchers mcales
- Butchers blokcs

Minets – late 1950s Ladies Outfitters

- Late 1950s Women's clothing, accessories and patterns
- Late 1950s baby & children clothes, accessories and patterns

NHS Clinic – early 1960s

- Items relating to an early 1960s clinic
- Early 1960s welfare foods: dried milk tins (in good condition), welfare orange juice and cod liver oil bottles
- Post-war baby scales with balance mechanism – Avery or Salter

Stantons Records – electronic items must be from 1958-1959

- Televisions
- Radios
- Record players
- Reel to reel tape recorders
- Musical instruments purchased at Stanton's, pianos, electric organs, flutes, recorders, brass, wind, percussion, violins etc.
- Sheet music purchased at Stanton
- Records purchased at Stanton's
- Eveready batteries
- Gramophone needles

West Bromwich Building Society

- Late 1940s office equipment
- Items relating to West Bromwich Building Society

Woodside Library

- Items relating to Woodside Library

- No books currently

Ambrose ice cream dairy

- Late 1940s ice cream making/sterilising equipment

Langer's Army & Navy

- WW2/1950s army surplus – uniforms, boots, camping equipment (Primus stoves, mess tins)