



**SCHOOLS PROGRAMME**  
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01384 815575

# THEIR PAST YOUR FUTURE



..... *at* MERRY HILL .....

## THEIR PAST YOUR FUTURE

**Opening Times**  
**7th May - 12th June**  
Monday to Friday,  
12.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.  
Saturday,  
9.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.  
Sunday,  
11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.  
**FREE**

MERRY HILL is delighted to be the only shopping centre in the West Midlands hosting the *Their Past Your Future* exhibition.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### Children's Activity Weeks

Keep the kids entertained over the school holidays with our action-packed activity days.

Enjoy our free family entertainment at Fountain Square throughout the Whitsun half-term. From Monday 30th May to Sunday 5th June there will be a variety of themed activities to bring alive the impact of the Second World War. **Summer holiday** entertainment begins on 1st to 5th August. FREE.

#### Birmingham Jazz Festival

From 1st to 10th July, Merry Hill will be taking part in the Birmingham Jazz Festival. A variety of exciting jazz acts will be visiting Merry Hill to entertain shoppers on the malls and in local bars and cafes.

#### Fashion Shows

Merry Hill will be hosting fashion shows to showcase the latest family fashions for the season on 9th & 10th June, 6th & 7th October and 24th & 25th November. Just turn up at Fountain Square between 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

#### Merry Hill Education Trails

Our new Art Trail and Kiddy Car Trail are available this summer for parents and children to explore the malls. Our Customer Service and Environmental Trail are also great learning resources for schools to discover more about Merry Hill. Look out for further information!

For further details contact 01384 487911 or [www.merryhill.co.uk](http://www.merryhill.co.uk)

# THEIR PAST YOUR FUTURE



Young ladies walking along Priory Street, Dudley carrying their gas masks, September 1939.

THEIR PAST YOUR FUTURE has been developed by the Imperial War Museum and during 2005 it will be touring the length and breadth of the UK. The exhibition explores how the Second World War changed the people and landscape of the UK forever. At the core of the exhibition are personal stories that look at how people kept their families safe, how wartime experiences changed people's lives and how people remember those they lost.

Staff from Dudley Museum Service with the help of the Dudley Archives & Local History Service have put together a display of local photographs which will complement the main exhibition.



16th Counter Attack Platoon D Company inspection by The Duke of Kent

It is being brought to the Borough by the Council's Museum Service in partnership with Merry Hill's new owners, Westfield. The exhibition will be in the former Goldsmiths store, on the ground floor near Fountain Square, from 7th May to 12th June inclusive.

Jane Carney, Museums Development Officer, said: "We are thrilled to have got the Imperial War Museum's fascinating and thought-provoking exhibition to Dudley. Combined with our Local Heroes exhibition it will give people an insight into life during the Second World War. I'm sure our exhibitions will be popular with people of all ages."

## Get into the 1940s Swing Event

14th MAY, 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
Fountain Square. FREE.

It's time to step back in time with a themed day of activities in and around the *Their Past Your Future* exhibition including:

**Take a trip** down memory lane with a 1940s sing-along. In the morning there will be songs from George Formby and throughout the afternoon, local group Cum Sing Wi' We will be performing wartime favourites.

**Feel like getting into the swing** of things? Ever fancied learning to jive? Well this is your chance to learn a few steps. Ceroc Midlands will be taking you through a few dance steps.

**Chat to veterans** from the Royal Air Force Association, the Royal Naval Association and the Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association. This is a great opportunity to chat to local people who remember what life was really like. Volunteers from the newly opened Smethwick

Heritage Centre will also be sharing their stories in the afternoon.

**Come along to share your wartime memories.** Merry Hill's Age Concern centre will be joining in the fun and opening its doors so people can pop into the centre to talk about their personal stories while enjoying a well earned cuppa. Cadet volunteers will be on hand to record memories on behalf of the BBC's People War Network.

**Midlands Vehicle Trust** will be transporting us back in time with vehicles from the period on display outside Argos and Sainsburys. Also Winston Churchill look-alike and members from the Ruffles Re-enactment Association will be dressed up in period costumes and roaming around Fountain Square.

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**Dudley Catering & Client Services** will be providing tasty wartime treats, Anzac biscuits, don't delay these won't last for long!

**Black Country Society** bookstand.  
Also quizzes and colouring sheets.

### Finale Event

**1940s Generation Game**  
4th JUNE, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
FREE.

**Time to test your knowledge** of the Second World War and win prizes! Come and take part in our fun, interactive quiz and find out how much you know about life during the war. Throughout the day families will be invited to get up on stage and battle it out to win prizes. Each show lasts for 10 minutes and will run at half hour intervals (break for lunch).

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in *Their Past Your Future* Exhibition

**Under 5s Fun**  
17th, 24th & 31st MAY, and 7th JUNE  
1.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. FREE.

Traditional games and craft activities for the under 5s.

**In Their Shoes**  
12th, 19th, 26th MAY and 2th, 9th JUNE  
1.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. FREE.

An informal drop in session when visitors will have a chance to look at and handle objects.



For further details contact 01384 815575  
or [www.discoverdudley.org.uk](http://www.discoverdudley.org.uk)

# SECOND WORLD WAR ANNIVERSARY DUDLEY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

## Local Heroes Exhibition 7th MAY - 11th JUNE, ring for times

Local people recall memories of what life was like during the Second World War. The exhibition includes stories and photographs from veterans, school children, evacuees and munitions workers.

## VE Day Commemorations 7th MAY, 11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. FREE.

Share wartime stories with local people who had first hand experience of the war years.

Have you ever wondered what the food was like during the war? War time snacks provided by Dudley Catering & Client Services.

Craft activities including make your own gas mask box, no booking required.

Family code breaker event, 2.00 pm start, each session lasts for approximately 10 minutes. Limited spaces.

## VE Day Commemorations 8th MAY, 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. FREE.

The museum will open its doors to welcome visitors on this special day of commemorations which will be taking place in Dudley's Town Centre.

## JAM CLUB - Their Past Your Future

### Wednesday 1st & Thursday 2nd JUNE 11.00 a.m., 12 noon, 1.00 p.m. £1.50.

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, make a celebration hat and flag, scrape a blitz scene, or make a fighter plane. No booking required.

## DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

### VE Day Commemorations 8th MAY, 12 noon - 5.00 p.m.

A uniformed parade through the Town Centre from 1.20 p.m. will be followed by a service at Coronation Gardens from 1.30 p.m. 1940s entertainment will complement a large display of military vehicles in Stone Street Square, and Dudley Concert Hall will be hosting a tea dance (tickets for the tea dance £2 from the box office 01384 812812). Fairground rides in the Market Place, facepainting, balloons and bunting will ensure that the whole family are kept entertained.



Further details available from Matthew Caddick, Town Centre Manager, 01384 815496.

## Entertainment LIVE Dudley

### WE'LL MEET AGAIN Tuesday 17th MAY, 2.00 p.m. Dudley Concert Hall

Record-breaking show featuring the songs, comedy and music of Wartime Britain. A star-studded cast including Adam Daye, Marilyn Hill Smith and more.

Tickets: £7.50

**BOX OFFICE: 01384 812812**  
**ONLINE: www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment**

# SMETHWICK HERITAGE CENTRE

The 15th September 2004 saw the opening of Smethwick's first Heritage Centre. Situated in the heart of Smethwick in Victoria Park next to the Council House, the opening of the centre was a dream come true for the twenty-eight volunteers of the Smethwick Heritage Centre Trust who have been working hard for over seven years to provide the people of Smethwick with a wonderful Heritage Centre which celebrates the town's proud industrial and social past.



Housing many hundreds of different objects, books, photographs and memorabilia, the Heritage Centre provides visitors with many opportunities to remember and learn about the history of Smethwick.

### Opening hours for the Centre are:

1st April until 31st October - Weds, Thurs, Fri & Sat 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

1st November until 31st March - Thurs, Fri & Sat 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

You can discover more about the Heritage Centre by looking on our website [www.smethwick-heritage.co.uk](http://www.smethwick-heritage.co.uk) or by calling 0121 555 7278.

In June 2005 the second phase of the development of the Heritage Centre will be complete when an exhibition room will be opened to the public for the first time. Our first exhibition 'Smethwick in Wartime, 1939-45' will examine life on the Home Front and will be open from Saturday 11th until Saturday 25th June 2005, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. each day (except Sundays). The exhibition will also be open each week on both Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6.00 p.m. until 8.00 p.m.

Smethwick Heritage Centre, Victoria Park Lodge, High Street, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 3NJ  
[www.smethwick-heritage.co.uk](http://www.smethwick-heritage.co.uk) or Tel: 0121 555 7278.



## Everyone has a story to tell!

World War Two was a time when ordinary people found themselves taking part in extraordinary times.

Share your World War Two memories by putting them onto the People's War website: [www.bbc.co.uk/ww2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2)

BBC WW2 People's War is a website dedicated to collecting these people's stories in a lasting archive. Whether you were a child or an adult, military or civilian, at home or abroad, every story is part of the Nation's history and plays a vital part in helping future generations understand the sacrifices made by a nation at war. If you lived through the war yourself, or have a story about someone who did, please contribute your story to the website.

## Events at Merry Hill

### TELL YOUR STORY

Dudley Museum Service will be gathering memories at Merry Hill on Saturday 14th May between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

### THE PEOPLE'S WAR

BBC People's War Outreach Officer, Jenni Waugh, will be at Merry Hill to talk about the project on Wednesday 1st June between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.

## Dudley Archives & Local History Service WORLD WAR II EXHIBITION

Friday 6th MAY - end of AUGUST. FREE.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.,

Thursday, 9.30 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.

1st & 3rd Saturday's in the month 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Dudley Archives & Local History Service, Mount Pleasant Street, Coseley, West Midlands WV14 9JR. Tel: 01384 812770.

## The Locksmith's House, Willenhall FAMILY DAY

Wednesday 1st JUNE, 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. FREE.

Traditional street games, tour the house, look at 30s & 40s clothes, toast bread on the range, examine our rationing table and share your memories of Willenhall and the Black Country during the war.

Craft & street games - sessions at 11.00 a.m., 12 noon, 1.00 p.m., 2.00 p.m.

Tour & toast - sessions at 10.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m.

The Locksmith's House, 54, New Road, Willenhall, West Midlands WV13 2DA. Tel: 01902 634542 (Wed & Sat only).

## AGE CONCERN MERRY HILL

will be opening its doors on Saturday 14th May so people can pop in to talk about their wartime memories. Refreshments will be served throughout the day from 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. This activity and information centre offers a variety of activity and exercise classes, as well as offering training opportunities and support for older people, their carers and voluntary agencies.

For further information contact 01384 572365 or [www.ageconcerndudley.org.uk](http://www.ageconcerndudley.org.uk)



## WARTIME HIMLEY Sunday 8th May

**VE Day Tours** - As part of a celebration of the 60th anniversary of VE day, specially created guided tours of Himley Hall highlighting what the estate was really like during the Second World War. Booking essential, tour charge.

**Band Concert** - with the NC Big Band playing all the favourite wartime big band sounds on the Hall lawns. Free admission.

Pick up a copy of the Himley Hall & Park Events 2005 brochure in your local library or information centre or call: 01384 817817.