

2016

Forge Mill Needle Museum

Events

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National Mills Weekend
Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May



Forge Mill Needle Museum was open for National Mills Weekend on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May 2016 from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

For the weekend the museum offered a visit to the needle museum at a reduced rate giving access to the world's only surviving water powered scouring mill.

REMEMBERING THE FORTIES DAY

Sunday 22nd May



On Sunday, 22nd May, we had another excellent event at Forge Mill today with our annual 'Remembering the 40s' day. Despite a short shower in the afternoon the weather was very kind to us and everyone was able to enjoy their picnics, and refreshments from our Abbey Meadows Coffee Bar, outside.

As always, the 40s team are really nice people who show a real commitment to their interest. There was some excellent 'hardware' on show with cars, military vehicles and equipment in first class condition and their owners were very willing to talk to enthusiasts both young and old. We also had an exciting model plane display over the Abbey site.

Indigo Arts, as always, 'did us proud' with an excellent performance of 1940s songs throughout the day.

An extra attraction this year was a single decker bus complete with driver from Wythall Transport Museum (<http://www.wythall.org.uk/>) which did a 'shuttle' from the Abbey Stadium overspill car park. This significantly helped our parking problems for events and was thoroughly enjoyed by visitors.

We had about 500 visitors on the day, mostly adults, but there were also quite a number of families, and the children had at least as much fun as the adults.

Farm DaySunday 26th June

With good weather and nearly 900 visitors, we had another excellent Farm Day at Forge Mill on Sunday.

There was a wide range of activities for both adults and children including the cute and cuddly farm animals, a Punch and Judy show, craft demonstrations, including wood carving, tractors which the children really enjoyed sitting in, children's craft activities and live music.

We had many visitors telling us on the gate as they were leaving, how much they had enjoyed the event and what good value it was.

**Free event - National Archaeology Weekend.
Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July 2016.**



The National Archaeology Weekend on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July 2016 was a free event and specifically themed around Bordesley Abbey'

Within the Forge Mill Needle Museum grounds there was the Medieval Knight's encampment, weaponry demonstrations, Medieval storytelling and children's crafts.

On the Bordesley Abbey site there was a Masonry demonstration, with a highly skilled craftsman and masonry activities for children.

There were also tours of the abbey site and the first few of the stone seating which will be installed over the next few months.

Saturday was a relatively quiet day with a little over 250 visitors, but Sunday, which was glorious weather, was much busier and the abbey tours (30 visitors in the morning and 20 visitors in the afternoon) were well attended.

The children loved the masonry activities at the abbey.

**‘Romans and Ancient Britons’ weekend
Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th August 2016**



What superb weather for our annual 'Romans and Ancient Britons' weekend.

As always the reenactors gave excellent displays both in terms of military engagement but also showing how people lived at that time.

To enhance this, we also had our 'Way of the Warrior' exhibition in the museum gallery showing costumes from major films of the period.

At £2 for adults and £1 for children this was a real 'steal' in terms of value for a day out compared to other major local attractions.

Congratulations to the staff and volunteers at our Redditch Museum and, of course, Redditch Council, for making this possible.

Scarecrow Day
Sunday 26h August 2016



The weather for Scarecrow Day today was a bit variable and we had some very nice sunshine and, unfortunately, some heavy showers. However, everyone took this in their stride.

Although this was not organised and run by the Museum, the Forge Mill Volunteers were on hand to give support and there was access to all the Museum facilities including our excellent exhibition in the gallery.

There were some very good scarecrows made and there was a wide range of attractions for visitors.

All our visitors were very supportive of the events at the museum and we had some very nice comments at the finish of their visit.

Forge Mill Museum Heritage Open Day

11 September 2016 11.00am to 4.00pm



Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to places that normally have an admission charge for entrance and/or events.

We had an excellent day at the Heritage Day at Forge Mill on Sunday 11th September. The weather was perfect and we had just short of 280 visitors on the day, which is our best yet for a Heritage Day.

Many of the visitors were from outside the town and, quite a number, from outside the area brought in by our on-line publicity including the Heritage Open Days website.

Among the wide range of activities and events on the day we had:

The local Royal Enfield Owners Club, who were really enthusiastic and had some lovely machines. Visitors were very interested in what they had to show and the children, of course, loved sitting on the bikes and having their photographs taken!

Indigo Arts as usual gave us some very attractive singing and they were also promoting their 'Son et Lumière' event at the Abbey on the 22nd and 23rd October. This is a free event but pre-booking is required and this can be done at Forge Mill Visitor Centre.

The Redditch Local History Society were there with a display of the Headless Cross Methodist Church 'Time Capsule' and there was also a display from the Moons Moat Preservation Group.

We had well attended tours of the Museum and the Abbey, and activities for children.

A big feature of the event was the first trials of the 'tablet trail' over the abbey ruins area. This system will be one of the most technically advanced in any museum. This is a very interesting project and I will put a few pictures of this on another Facebook entry.

Overall, a very nice day meeting lots of very nice people. The exhibitors, staff and volunteers put in a lot of work to make it happen but I think that everyone agreed that it was well worth the effort.

SON ET LUMIÈRE: A NIGHT AT THE ABBEY
Saturday/Sunday 22nd/23rd October 2016



The 'Son et Lumiere' event on Saturday/Sunday evening had excellent weather conditions and was well organised by Indigo Arts as part of the Forge Mill Museum's celebration of our historic Bordesley Abbey site.

The walk from the Mill to the Abbey at night along a path illuminated by tea lights was an exciting start and this was followed by an interesting audio/visual history of the site.

It was difficult to take a picture with the light levels but attached is my attempt.

Christmas Craft fair
Saturday/Sunday 3rd / 4th December 2016



We had, as always, a terrific weekend at Forge Mill Needle Museum Craft Fair with over 500 visitors each day.

There were more than 20 craft stalls plus a Victorian Palace of Curiosities, traditional Christmas Carols from Indigo Arts, mulled wine and roasted chestnuts, Father Christmas, the Alcester Victoria Silver Band and much more.

It is ran from Saturday 3rd to Sunday 4th December from 11.00 am to 4.00pm. Entry is only £1 for adults and children free and we had crisp winter weather with dry cold sunshine which suited everyone.

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